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FBIS-EAS-92-005 CONTENTS *8 January 1992*

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NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Bush, Business Delegation Continue Visit ... 1
    Bush 'Suffering From Stomach Flu' *[KYODO]* ... 1
    Miyazawa Speaks at Banquet 8 Jan *[Tokyo TV]* ... 1
    Ford Official Comments on Mission *[KYODO]* ... 2
    Economic Growth Statement Viewed *[KYODO]* ... 2
    Hibakusha Demand Bush Apology *[KYODO]* ... 3
Bomb-Like 'Device' in U.S. Embassy Residence *[KYODO]* ... 4
Industry, MITI Respond to U.S. Requests ... 4
    NEC Corporation To Extend Pact *[KYODO]* ... 4
    U.S. Auto Parts Target Raised *[KYODO]* ... 4
    Mosbacher, Watanabe 'at Odds' *[KYODO]* ... 4
    MITI Chief: No More Concessions *[KYODO]* ... 5
    MITI Announces New Sales Program *[KYODO]* ... 5
    Honda Plans To Increase Imports *[KYODO]* ... 6
    Mitsubishi Ups U.S. Import Target *[KYODO]* ... 6
    Toyota Plans To Sell GM Autos *[KYODO]* ... 6
    Doubling of Parts Imports Planned *[KYODO]* ... 6
    Auto Industry Views Concessions *[KYODO]* ... 7
    NTT on Procuring U.S. Software *[KYODO]* ... 8
    Toshiba Machine To Boost Imports *[KYODO]* ... 8
Traders Aim To Increase FY '93 Imports by 25% *[KYODO]* ... 8
Farmers, Consumers on Rice Market Liberalization *[KYODO]* ... 8
Sumitomo, Foreign Partners To End Affiliation *[KYODO]* ... 9
UK Invites Miyazawa To Attend UN Summit *[KYODO]* ... 9
Osaka Plans To Send Medicine to St. Petersburg *[KYODO]* ... 9
Official Probe of East Timor Shootings Praised *[KYODO]* ... 9
Dumping of Pakistani Cotton Yarn Suspected *[KYODO]* ... 10
Kanemaru Accepts Offer of LDP Vice Presidency *[KYODO]* ... 10
Short-, Long-Term Money Rates Return to Normal *[KYODO]* ... 10
Major Banks To Cut Short-Term Prime Rates *[KYODO]* ... 11
Council Recommends Rate Cut in Postal Savings *[KYODO]* ... 11
Fiscal Conditions 'Conducive' to Balanced Growth *[KYODO]* ... 11
NTT Succeeds in High-Speed Optical Transmission *[KYODO]* ... 11

North Korea

Reunification Committee on Team Spirit Suspension *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 12
Daily Criticizes Bush's Asia-Pacific Visit *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 13
Seoul Reports on Protests Against Bush Visit *[KCNA]* ... 14
DPRK Embassies Abroad Hold Press Conferences *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 14
South's Reverend Kwon Arrives in Pyongyang *[KCNA]* ... 14
Officials Meet Indian, Peruvian Party Leaders *[KCNA]* ... 15
Indian Communist Leader Greets Kim Chong-il *[KCNA]* ... 15
Meeting Marks Start of 'Palestinian Revolution' *[KCNA]* ... 15
Kim Chong-il Receives More New Year Greetings *[KCNA]* ... 16
SKNDF Urges 'Accelerating' Democratization *[KCNA]* ... 16
Public Leaders Support DPRK Reunification Stand *[KCNA]* ... 16
More Mass Rallies Held on Kim Il-song's Speech *[KCNA]* ... 17

Power Industry Officials Attend to Projects *[KCNA]* 17
Documentary Film Studio Releases New Films *[KCNA]* 18
Daily Stresses Launching 'Three Revolutions' *[Pyongyang Radio]* 18
KCNA Reviews Pyongyang Press for 8 Jan 20

South Korea

DPRK Envoy Confirms IAEA Compliance *[KYONGHYANG SINMUN 8 Jan]* 21
Envoy to U.S. on North's Inspection Compliance *[Seoul TV]* 21
U.S., ROK Discuss Contacts With DPRK *[YONHAP]* 22
Editorial Slams U.S. 'Interference' in Affairs *[HANGYORE SINMUN 8 Jan]* 22
'Confrontation' With U.S. Over Bank Regulation *[THE KOREA TIMES 8 Jan]* 23
Opposition to Uruguay Round Rice Tariffs 'Firm' *[YONHAP]* 24
Ministry Lowers Annual Rice Production Target *[YONHAP]* 25
Vice Minister-Level Officials Reshuffled *[Seoul Radio]* 25
Kim Yong-sam Demands Early Presidential Candidacy *[THE KOREA TIMES 8 Jan]* 25
DLP Secretariat Resists No's Naming of Kim *[THE KOREA TIMES 8 Jan]* 26
Hyundai Founder Chong Promotes New Party 26
  Plans 'Collective Leadership' *[THE KOREA TIMES 8 Jan]* 26
  DP Criticizes Chong Move *[YONHAP]* 26
Hyundai Founder Chong Holds News Conference 27
  Notes New Party Goals *[YONHAP]* 27
  Reveals Past Leadership Support *[YONHAP]* 27
Defense Ministry Said Backpedaling on Reform *[TONG-A ILBO 6 Jan]* 27
Student Representative Chairman Sentenced *[YONHAP]* 28
German Technology Transfers to DPRK Examined *[SINDONG-A Dec]* 28

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Thai Authorities Apologize for Border Incident *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 34

Singapore

President Wee Hosts Dinner for PRC President *[Singapore Radio]* 34

Cambodia

Khieu Samphan To Attend SNC Meeting 11 Jan *[AFP]* 34
UN Meet Cancelled Due to Khmer Rouge Absence *[AFP]* 35
Sihanouk, UNSC Envoys Discuss Human Rights *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 35
Sihanouk Receives $300,000 Annually From PRC *[Radio VOK]* 35
Some Foreign Aid Suspected of Going to Vietnamese *[Radio VGNUFC]* 35
Continued Attacks by Vietnamese Forces Reported *[Radio VGNUFC]* 36
SRV Disarms Soldiers, Agents in Kompong Thom *[Radio VGNUFC]* 36
UN Group Surveys Minefields in Banteay Meanchey *[SPK]* 36
Oil Exploration Agreement Signed With Japan *[SPK]* 37
Sihanouk Distributes Indonesian Aid to Factions *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 37
  Thanks Indonesia for Aid *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 37
Hun Sen Hails Booming Trade With Singapore *[Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES 4 Jan]* 38
Chea Sim Receives French Parliamentary Delegation *[SPK]* 38
Sihanouk Receives Italian Foreign Minister 6 Jan *[SPK]* 38
  Minister Leaves Phnom Penh *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 38
Chea Sim Denies Splits in Leadership *[SPK]* 39
Anticorruption Protest Reported in Kompong Thom *[Radio VGNUFC]* 39
Demonstration Against SNC Meeting Thwarted *[Radio VGNUFC]* 39
Party Paper Calls for Social Tranquillity, Order *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 39
Correction to Chea Sim's National Day Address 40

Laos

Army-Rebel Clashes Force Closure of Thai Border *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 8 Jan]* 40
Kaysone Phomvihan Continues Visit to Thailand 40
  6-7 Jan Activities Reported *[Vientiane Radio]* 40
  Undergoes Medical Check-Up in Bangkok *[Bangkok THE NATION 8 Jan]* 41
  8 Jan Itinerary Reported *[Vientiane Radio]* 42

Philippines

Reportage on U.S. Bases Issue, Subic Bay 42
  Manglapus Hopeful for Subic Rescue *[THE CHRONICLE 8 Jan]* 42
  U.S.-Initiated Talks Ruled Out *[MALAYA 8 Jan]* 42
  June 1992 Pullout Confirmed *[Quezon City Radio]* 43
  Officials Brief Reporters *[Quezon City Radio]* 43
Singapore Accused of Damaging Regional Security *[THE CHRONICLE 8 Jan]* 44
Diplomatic Ties to North Korea 'Soon' *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 3 Jan]* 45
Aquino Accepts Rebel Offer To Help Police Polls *[Manila Radio]* 45
Muslim Group Threatens To Destroy Power Facilities *[Manila Radio]* 45
Insurgents Consolidate Political Gains *[THE CHRONICLE 1 Jan]* 45
Military Begins New Counterinsurgency Operation *[THE CHRONICLE 2 Jan]* 46

Thailand

Anan on U.S. Military Agreement With Singapore *[Bangkok TV]* 47
GATT Plan's Effect on Thai Software Viewed *[THE NATION 8 Jan]* 47
Ties With Three Indochinese States at 'Best' *[THE NATION 8 Jan]* 48
Anan on Laos' Desire To Integrate With ASEAN *[BANGKOK POST 8 Jan]* 48

Vietnam

Thai Military Commander Suchinda Continues Visit 49
  Meets With Le Duc Anh *[Bangkok THE NATION 8 Jan]* 49
  Suchinda on Talks, SRV Ties *[Bangkok THE NATION 8 Jan]* 50
  Joint Leaders Said Satisfied *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 8 Jan]* 51
Friendship Association Meets in Hanoi *[VNA]* 51
Do Muoi Receives International Delegation *[VNA]* 52
Draft Amendments to Constitution, Part 2 *[Hanoi Radio]* 52
Draft Amendments to Constitution, Part 3 *[Hanoi Radio]* 55

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Keating Urges Europe To Support GATT Package *[AFP]* 59
Cabinet Supports GATT's 'Dunkel Plan' *[AFP]* 59
Treasurer Says Rate Cut To Revive Economy *[Melbourne International]* 59

Japan

Bush, Business Delegation Continue Visit

Bush 'Suffering From Stomach Flu'

OW0801135692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1343 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—U.S. President George Bush collapsed at a dinner at Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's official residence Wednesday, but later said he was fine.

White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Bush, 67, was suffering from stomach flu. The president's physician, Burton Lee, saw no need for a major change in Bush's schedule for Thursday, other than omitting a breakfast meeting, the spokesman said.

Fitzwater said Bush was resting at the Akasaka palace where he is staying during his current state visit to Japan.

Miyazawa's chief spokesman, Koichi Kato, told reporters Thursday's meeting between Miyazawa and Bush would go on as planned.

In footage of the banquet on Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) television, Bush was seen falling from his chair to the floor, and Miyazawa and others helped the ashen-faced leader up. Moments later he was visibly improved, standing and waving to the guests.

He then walked with help to his car and returned to the Akasaka palace where he is staying.

Bush tried to ease the concern of attendants at the banquet by saying he was fine. He told reporters on the way out, "I feel good." But they said the president still looked disheveled and "wobbly."

An ambulance was called in and stood by in front of the front entrance of the prime minister's official residence, but was not used.

Bush, who has followed a busy schedule of trade and political talks with Miyazawa and other Japanese leaders since he came to Japan on Tuesday, earlier in the day played tennis with Emperor Akihito.

First lady Barbara Bush remained at the banquet and elicited laughter from the other guests when she made a short speech. Referring to Bush's tennis game, she said he had been "badly beaten and we Bushes aren't used to that."

The Bushes are on the 10th day of a 12-day tour of the Asia-Pacific region.

In early May last year, Bush, while jogging at Camp David, Maryland, suffered an irregular heartbeat, caused by a thyroid problem, and was briefly hospitalized.

Miyazawa Speaks at Banquet 8 Jan

OW0801133892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1145 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Speech by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa at banquet for U.S. President George Bush, at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo—live, in Japanese with simultaneous translation into English; broadcast in progress; italicized passages spoken in English]

[Text] The tide of history is now turning. We are beginning to glimpse the blue skies through openings in the clouds of terror that have hung over the heads of mankind. Despotism and dictatorship have started to tumble down and the people the world over are beginning to speak in their own voices. Forty-five years after the start of the cold war, mankind is beginning to feel that an age of hope is at long last arriving.

It is above all the strong U.S. leadership consistently exercised throughout the cold war that has brought this high expectation to the world. President Bush took on the historical mission of putting an end to the cold war and has succeeded remarkably.

The great undertaking of building a peaceful world, however, has only just begun. With the weight of the cold war being lifted, different types of conflicts and disputes such as ethnic feuds are coming to the surface. President Bush continues to exercise his excellent leadership under these new circumstances, working hard in the forefront of the concerted international efforts to bring about peace. I would like to pay my deep respect to the president for his endeavors.

We believe that the United States will continue to assume a leading role in the post-cold war era. We attach importance to cooperation with the United States and making our contribution to the world because not only do we share fundamental values but also have a very high degree of interdependence with the United States, in which our two countries work for the world. I am indeed delighted to discuss with him our global partnership.

Looking back over the past, Japan received various forms of assistance from the international community after its defeat in the war. It is no exaggeration to say that Japan would not have been what it is today without the good will and the generous assistance provided to us by the United States and the American people. Today's prosperity of Japan, therefore, should not be monopolized by Japanese alone. Rather, we should return the good will and support we received from the United States and from other members of the international community by positively fulfilling our responsibilities, which the world now expects from Japan. I would like to stress this point to Japan's young people as well as all of you here today.

President Bush said in his address at Pearl Harbor on 8 December that the former enemies are now closest friends. His words struck chords in the hearts of many

Japanese. Now is the time for construction. A constructive Japan-U.S. relationship is one in which we feel each other's joys and pains as if they were our own. For instance, Bush's current visit to Japan, I believe, will be a true mark of such a relationship of mutual trust and friendship. His visit will be remembered as a milestone on the road our two countries will be travelling through truly global partnership.

It was in the summer of 1939 that I first visited the United States. Then I was a college freshman and was taking part in the Japan-America student conference held at the University of Southern California. I had two important gains on that trip. The first gain was my wife, now seated next to me. [applause] She was also a participant in the conference. The other gain was my appreciation of the value of freedom. It was a fresh surprise for us Japanese students that some of the American students freely voiced their criticism of the government's Asia policy at that time when our bilateral relations were turning bitter. The taste of freedom and openness I experienced there made an indelible impression on my mind. Ever since, this experience has served me as a valuable reminder of America's greatness.

I have just received a small slip of paper from Mrs. Bush. It says that Mr. President has already arrived at the Akasaka Geihinkan guesthouse and is already quite all right. The Foreign Ministry called. The president is fine, resting at Akasaka. [applause]

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to propose a toast for the health of President and Mrs. Bush, for the further progress of the members of the delegation and the American people, and for the peace and prosperity of the world, *and for the President of the United States.*

Ford Official Comments on Mission

OW0801125092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1154 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—The chairmen of the ailing "Big Three" automakers have not come to Tokyo with U.S. President Bush "to plea for help ... or ask for relief," a top U.S. auto executive said here Wednesday.

We are here to talk about trade, and not simply in autos, Ford Motor Co. Vice President Peter Pestillo told a press conference attended exclusively by Japanese reporters.

Pestillo is in Tokyo as an adviser to Ford Chairman Harold Poling, who with the chairmen of General Motors Corp. and Chrysler Corp., has accompanied President Bush on a mission described by the White House as a crusade to pry open foreign markets to American goods.

Pestillo said the Americans had come to deliver the message that if action were not taken quickly to shrink the huge trade imbalance between Japan and the U.S., the U.S. Congress would impose a solution.

"Sentiment runs high ... to restrict Japanese access to the American market, not just in cars, but more widely," he said.

To forestall that possibility, Pestillo said the U.S. was seeking to convince Japan to help reduce the U.S. trade deficit by 5 to 10 billion dollars over five years, in any way it sees fit.

Asked about trade in autos and auto parts, which accounts for 75 percent of more than 40 billion dollar trade deficit with Japan suffered by the U.S. the past two years, Pestillo said U.S. automakers were not seeking trade-restricting solutions, but to increase sales to Japan.

He said plans by Japanese automakers to import and sell 20,000 U.S. cars was "a start, not a solution," as the total was inconsequential in comparison with the number of Japanese cars sold in the U.S.

As proof that the Japanese market is still closed, Pestillo noted that imports of all makes accounted for less than 3 percent of cars sold last year in Japan.

To really narrow the trade gap, Pestillo urged Japanese automakers to purchase more U.S.-made auto parts, both for import and by U.S. auto plants in the U.S., and to stimulate the Japanese economy to increase overall demand.

"We (Ford) think we can compete with Japanese cars in Japan," said Pestillo, who claimed that Japanese auto magazines have expressed good opinions on a number of new U.S. cars.

But he absolutely ruled out the possibility that Ford would build a manufacturing plant in Japan anytime soon.

"There's seven million units of excess (manufacturing) capacity in Japan," Pestillo said.

Economic Growth Statement Viewed

OW0801130992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1219 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—The Japan-U.S. statement on economic growth released Wednesday has virtually committed Japan to taking additional measures to shore up the weak domestic economy, economists said.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President George Bush released a statement on the day "designed to strengthen the world economy," whose growth the document says slowed in 1991 to the lowest level in nearly a decade.

The statement says Miyazawa stated Japan will "monitor the progress" of the fiscal measures taken to boost the domestic economy "so as to ensure that the expected effects are realized."

Russell Jones, senior economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International Ltd., said, "the implication, I think, is that if they feel the economy is going to stay weak, there will be more fiscal spending" on the part of Japan.

Takashi Kiuchi, general manager and chief economist at the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan, said, "the statement means Japan will take additional fiscal, and probably also monetary, steps if the prospect for achieving the 3.5 percent growth target remains dim."

Kiuchi added that the official target is a tough enough goal given the current state of the economy.

"I think Japan will be pressed to take some more measures to prop up the economy although it has not pledged to achieve the goal," he said.

The U.S. wanted to put a target figure into the statement, but Japan refused, a Finance Ministry official said.

Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs Tadao Chino said at a press conference that Japan explained in the meeting that the growth target is realistic, and the U.S. "showed understanding about it."

Jones said it is realistic "providing Japan takes the right actions."

"You will have to see a further cut in interest rates and maybe some fiscal stimulus as well," he said.

"If Japan's official discount rate stays at 4.5 percent and there is no change in budgetary policy, it will become very difficult for Japan to achieve the target," he said.

The Miyazawa cabinet approved last month a draft budget for fiscal 1992 aimed at boosting domestic demand through relatively generous public works spending, and the Bank of Japan cut the benchmark rate by 0.5 percentage point on December 30 to 4.5 percent.

These measures, economists believe, are intended to show that Japan is playing its part to help the U.S. economy to recover, and to be of indirect assistance to Bush, whose popularity is on the wane.

Long-Term Credit Bank's Kiuchi said the statement demonstrated that the U.S. appreciates the steps.

Jones agreed, saying "the Americans I'm sure are very grateful for the cut in the discount rate."

But both Kiuchi and Jones stressed that more will be needed to achieve the 3.5 percent goal.

The statement also made clear that both Japan and the U.S. think the recent upswing of the yen is beneficial to reducing the bilateral trade imbalance.

It said Bush and Miyazawa agreed that "recent exchange rate movements were consistent with current economic developments."

Jones said the statement shows "definite satisfaction that the yen has moved higher."

But he added, "I think they fear that what is now a welcome movement could become too much of a movement if they try to talk the yen higher."

"In the current environment, this depreciation of the dollar could very rapidly become a dollar crisis," he said.

Hibakusha Demand Bush Apology

OW0801125892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1140 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—The survivors of the 1945 U.S. atom bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki demanded Wednesday that President George Bush offer an apology for his December 1 remark justifying the country's decision to drop the bombs.

The demand was presented to the American Embassy in Tokyo in the form of a two-page English-language statement by Yamanashi University Prof. Takeshi Ito and three other Hibakusha (A-bomb survivors) of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations.

Ito heads the confederation, which groups 345,000 survivors still suffering from the effects of their exposure to radiation from the atomic-bomb explosions in the two cities in August 1945.

The statement called on the United States "to express apology to the hibakusha over the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to make pledge that there shall never be any more hibakusha to be created."

"We, A-bomb-sufferers, cannot suppress our deep sorrow and anger over your statement" said the letter addressed to Bush. Bush said December 1 that he saw no reason to apologize for the atomic bombs the U.S. dropped on the two cities.

The statement of protest was adopted by about 100 A-bomb survivors earlier in the day at a rally in Tokyo's Yamate Protestant Church, who banded together from Tokyo and neighboring prefectures.

While registering protest, the statement also acknowledged Japan's responsibility for various war atrocities by saying, "we have never supported Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor 50 years ago, nor have we averted our eyes from war crimes and other actions of aggression committed by Japan against neighboring Asian countries."

Last December, Bush said in an interview with America's ABC television that President Harry Truman's decision to drop the bombs "was right, because it spared the lives of millions of American citizens" who would have been killed in an invasion of the Japanese mainland by bringing the war to a quick end and eliminating the need for an invasion.

The President told the interviewer, David Brinkley, in an ABC special program on Japan's 1941 attack on Pearl

Harbor, "so war is hell, and it's a terrible thing, but there should be no apology requested, and that in my view is rank revisionism."

Bush, as a former U.S. Navy pilot, was shot down by Japanese in the Pacific near Chichijima Island, some 1,000 kilometers south of Tokyo, before being rescued by shipmates. He said he feels compassion for the parents who lost children in the nuclear attacks, but said six of the 15 pilots in his squadron were killed in the war.

The survivors also adopted a separate resolution in protests against the Japanese Government's failure to criticize Bush after press reports of his remarks stirred up anger in some quarters.

The separate resolution was also presented to the Foreign Ministry.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato earlier said Japan will not seek an apology over the Bush remark, saying, "it is a fact that Pearl Harbor and the atomic bombing occurred during the war, but rather than debating each point, it is better for the two countries to emphasize the building of a new history."

Bomb-Like 'Device' in U.S. Embassy Residence

OW0801144092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1433 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—A device resembling a home-made bomb was found in a corridor on the eighth floor of the official residence of U.S. Embassy staff and their families, the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department said Wednesday.

The device—consisting of a small auto battery, an analog alarm clock, a box containing an unidentified liquid, electric wires and a Japanese-made battery—was detected by an embassy staffer at around 8 A.M. at the "Perry Tower" residential building, the police said.

Police said investigators would examine and decide whether the device is a genuine explosive or merely a fake designed to embarrass the embassy security.

Police said they will request the embassy's cooperation in turning over and identifying the device after visiting U.S. President George Bush departs from Japan on Friday.

The residence is given the same diplomatic status as the U.S. Embassy compound and is guarded by U.S. Marines.

Industry, MITI Respond to U.S. Requests

NEC Corporation To Extend Pact

OW0701163292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1509 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—NEC Corp. said Tuesday it has agreed with a subsidiary of American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT&T) to extend their semiconductor pact to joint development of high-speed Static Random Access Memory Chips (SRAMS).

NEC will supply its U.S. partner, AT&T Microelectronics, with technical information regarding 0.5 micron high-speed SRAMS, on which the two companies will base the shared development of high-performance SRAMS, NEC officials said.

SRAMS are used in virtually all electronic computing systems. The devices to be developed under the agreement would perform at a level enabling systems to take full advantage of the most highly advanced microprocessors.

The deal is a first step toward realizing 0.35 micron process technology for next-generation semiconductors now being developed by both companies under the agreement reached in April 1991, the officials said.

The joint development efforts should also help ease Japan-U.S. semiconductor trade friction, they added.

U.S. Auto Parts Target Raised

OW0801021992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0156 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—The Japanese Government plans to raise the target for purchases of U.S. auto parts to some 19 billion dollars in fiscal 1994, up from the 17.1 billion dollars earlier decided upon by automakers, officials said.

The decision came after consultations between the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and auto industry executives in response to U.S. trade pressure, MITI officials said.

The figure will be presented to the United States as part of a package of measures to boost imports of U.S. autos and related parts later in the day when Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa meets President George Bush, they said.

Trade in autos and auto parts has been a major focus of Bush's visit here because U.S. officials say autos and auto parts account for three-quarters of the 41 billion dollar annual trade gap between the two countries.

Mosbacher, Watanabe 'at Odds'

OW0801045492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0435 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Japan and the United States remained at odds over the knotty issue of the huge bilateral imbalance in auto and auto parts trade at the end of morning talks between two key ministers Wednesday, ministry officials said.

International Trade and Industry [MITI] Minister Kozo Watanabe and U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher apparently failed to bridge their differences over the auto-linked trade gap, which accounts for three quarters of the 40 billion dollar total bilateral imbalance.

A ministry official, briefing reporters on the talks, said the auto dispute will be further discussed at summit talks later in the day between Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and visiting U.S. President George Bush.

He declined to elaborate further on the issue, which has been the focus of Bush's four-day tour to Japan. The trip is being viewed widely as a crusade to force open the Japanese market to salvage the sick U.S. economy.

The heads of the three major U.S. carmakers are accompanying the President, along with 15 other U.S. businessmen.

To soothe U.S. frustration, the Japanese Government reportedly will promise Bush to more than double Japan's purchases of U.S. auto components by fiscal 1993 to about 20 billion dollars.

This will represent about a 20 percent increase from the 1.6 billion dollars in auto parts purchases Japan's five largest automakers announced late last year.

Major Japanese auto companies earlier announced that they will import 1,000-5,000 units each from the U.S. Big Three—General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler.

The MITI official admitted there were some exchanges of words over figures between Watanabe and Mosbacher, but declined to make further comments.

During the 40-minute talks, Watanabe also briefed Mosbacher on the MITI-initiated business global partnership scheme aimed at goading Japanese companies into importing more.

He said the program will help create 10 billion dollars worth of additional Japanese imports of U.S. high-tech and other products by fiscal 1993.

Watanabe also touched on the new Japanese plan, unveiled Tuesday, to commit an extra 5 billion dollars to the bilateral co-financing program for developing nations, intended to boost U.S. exports to the recipient nations.

MITI Chief: No More Concessions

OW0801084092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0831 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe said Wednesday Japan will give no more ground to satisfy the United States on the auto trade dispute, which has become a symbol of years of economic bickering.

Watanabe told a press conference he failed to reach an agreement with U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher during their morning talks over how to reduce Japan's trade surplus with the U.S.

"Regretfully, we have not yet reached a broad agreement," he said, describing his meeting with Mosbacher as "very severe."

Mosbacher is accompanying U.S. President George Bush who arrived in Japan Tuesday for a four-day visit.

Watanabe said it is impossible to make further concessions on the dispute and that the government is trying very hard to convince the Americans of the "results of our maximum effort."

Under stiff U.S. pressure, the government persuaded Japan's major automakers to buy more U.S.-made car parts to cut the auto and auto parts trade gap, which accounts for three-quarters of the 40 billion dollar trade imbalance.

The automakers agreed to more than double their purchases of U.S. auto parts to 20 billion dollars in fiscal 1994 from the current levels, while promising efforts to boost sales of U.S. vehicles in Japan.

Watanabe said there are limits to what the government can do when it comes to private-sector matters like sales of automobiles.

He also said Japan and the U.S. are split over perceptions of the openness of the Japanese market.

While Japan believes it is trying more than any other country to open its markets, Washington regards the effort as insufficient, he said.

MITI Announces New Sales Program

OW0801055592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0544 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Japan will introduce a new scheme to make it easier for U.S. and European automakers to enter the Japanese market, officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Wednesday.

The government will allocate 1 billion yen to the new program from the budget for fiscal 1992, which starts on April 1.

The announcement, coinciding with the four-day visit by U.S. President George Bush which began Tuesday, is widely perceived as another initiative by the government to allay growing criticism of Japan's unabated external trade gap.

The three-point program involves nationwide fairs to promote imported cars under the sponsorship by the MITI-affiliated Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro).

Japan will also provide financial support to foreign automakers' missions to Japan and shoulder part of the costs of training foreign engineers who participate in bilateral design-in programs.

Japan's massive trade surplus in auto and auto parts trade has become a symbol of unending trade disputes with the United States as it accounts for three-quarters of the 40 billion dollar total bilateral imbalance.

Responding to the government's request, major Japanese automakers are planning sizable increases in their purchases of U.S.-made cars and car parts.

Honda Plans To Increase Imports

OW0801050692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0454 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Honda Motor Co. said Wednesday it plans to expand its imports of vehicles, components, and materials from the United States as part of national efforts to lessen Japan's automobile trade surplus with the United States.

Under the plans, Honda will increase Japanese sales of Chrysler Corp.'s Cherokee and Wrangler jeeps to 1,200 in 1994, almost triple the 437 vehicles it sold in 1991.

Honda, which has sold jeeps at 100 of its dealerships since January 1991, said it will boost to 300 the number of participating dealerships in three years.

Company officials said Honda will also increase imports of U.S.-built Honda Accord cars to 27,000 vehicles in 1994, double the 1991 sales.

In addition, Honda plans to buy 4.94 billion dollars worth of components and materials in the United States in fiscal 1994 for shipment to Japan and for use at its U.S. operations, 1.8 times its fiscal 1990 purchases.

Mitsubishi Ups U.S. Import Target

OW0801064792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0628 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Mitsubishi Motors Corp. said Wednesday it will increase the number of American-made vehicles it sells in the Japanese market along with increasing the amount of its locally procured parts overseas and its imports of U.S.-made parts.

Mitsubishi Motors has revised its target for sales of American- made cars in Japan upward to 6,000 vehicles in fiscal 1995, company officials said.

In December, the company said it would increase the number of U.S.-made vehicles sold in the Japanese market to 4,000 valued at 10 billion yen in fiscal 1995, up from 2,543 worth 5.4 billion yen in fiscal 1990.

The 6,000 figure will include Chrysler-brand models produced by Mitsubishi Motors' Diamond Star Motors venture in the U.S. and cars produced by Chrysler Corp., they said.

Mitsubishi Motors has also revised the fiscal 1994 target of purchases of local produced parts the Diamond Motors plant in Bloomington Norman, Illinois to 1.2 billion dollars, a 2.3-fold increase of the 520 million dollars worth purchased in fiscal 1990.

As part of its plan to increase imports of American-made parts, Mitsubishi Motors will "give maximum consideration to increasing imports from the American parts and components industry which is currently experiencing difficult times," the company said.

In reaction to the current imbalance in the auto parts trade between Japan and the U.S., the company also recently amended its dealer agreements enabling dealers to make their own decisions about marketing other-brand cars.

Mitsubishi Motors' plan is in line with announcements made recently by Honda Motor Co., Nissan Motor Co., and Toyota Motor Corp. of their intentions to increase imports of U.S.-made auto parts and to set specific targets for U.S. car sales in Japan.

Toyota Plans To Sell GM Autos

OW0801022392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0205 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp. plans to sell about 5,000 General Motors Corp. (GM) automobiles a year as part of a drive to boost sales of U.S. cars in Japan, Toyota officials said Wednesday.

The vehicles, mainly of the Saturn model, will be imported by Yanase and Co. and sold at Toyota's domestic dealerships. Toyota will discuss details with Yanase and GM, the officials said.

Toyota also said it plans to buy U.S.-made auto parts, together with production facilities, amounting to 5.5 billion dollars in fiscal 1994, some 500 million dollars more than projected earlier.

Both schemes will be officially announced Wednesday afternoon, the officials said.

Toyota had been opposed to specifying the number of GM vehicles it would sell on the grounds that it was difficult to set a figure without sales experience and before conducting market research.

It was forced to compromise when the auto issue emerged as one of the top issues on U.S. President George Bush's current visit to Japan.

The compromise, however, depends on GM working to develop cars suitable for the Japanese market, including producing right-hand drive vehicles, the officials said.

Doubling of Parts Imports Planned

OW0801122192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1144 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Five major Japanese automakers, responding to repeated calls from U.S. President George Bush for increased imports from the United States, have announced plans to boost their targets for purchases of automobile parts and components from American suppliers.

According to their announcements, the five firms, led by Japan's top automaker Toyota Motor Corp., will purchase 17.82 billion dollars worth of parts and components from U.S. suppliers in fiscal 1994, a 2.1-fold increase over fiscal 1990.

Japan's fiscal year begins on April 1.

The five Japanese automakers also include Nissan Motor Co., Honda Motor Co., Mitsubishi Motors Corp., an affiliate of Chrysler Corp., and Mazda Motor Corp., a partner of Ford Motor Co.

Toyota operates a joint car manufacturing plant with General Motors Corp. in Fremont, California.

The purchase targets by the five automakers include 14.2 billion dollars for local procurement for their vehicle manufacturing plants in the U.S. and imports worth 3.62 billion dollars.

Local procurement and imports compare with the 1990 figures of 6,785 million dollars and 1,753 million dollars, respectively.

Toyota said it will double purchases from U.S. makers to 5.28 billion dollars, including 3.82 billion dollars worth of local procurement for its U.S. facilities and imports worth 1.46 billion dollars.

Nissan's target includes 2.9 billion dollars worth of local procurement and imports of 800 million dollars for a total of 3.7 billion dollars, a 2.8-fold increase over 1990.

Honda's purchases will increase 1.8-fold to 4.94 billion dollars, including 4.38 billion dollars worth of local procurement and 560 million dollars of imports.

Mitsubishi will aim to increase its purchases from U.S. suppliers 2.3-fold, including 1.2 billion dollars for local purchases and 400 million dollars for imports.

Mazda will raise its purchases 1.9 times to 2.3 billion dollars, 1.9 billion dollars for local procurement and 400 million dollars for imports.

In addition, Toyota, Nissan and Mitsubishi said they will sell cars manufactured by the Big Three U.S. automakers— GM, Ford, and Chrysler—through their sales networks in Japan.

Honda and Mazda, which are already selling the cars of their U.S. affiliates in Japan, said they will try to increase sales of imported cars by two to three times.

Toyota said it will help General Motors sell 5,000 cars in Japan a year while Nissan will assist in selling Ford cars for the first time.

Mitsubishi will also help promote sales of Chrysler cars in Japan while continuing "reverse imports" of cars manufactured at its plant in the United States.

Honda said it will treble the number of dealerships handling imported cars in Japan.

Mazda said it will go all out to double sales of Ford cars in Japan to 4,500 units in fiscal 1992.

Purchase goals set by the five for fiscal 1994 with 1990 figures in parenthesis (figures in billion dollars) are as follows:

	Local	Imports	Total
Toyota			
	3.82 (1.9)	1.46(0.7)	5.28 (2.6)
Nissan			
	2.9 (0.9)	0.8 (0.4)	3.7 (1.3)
Honda			
	4.38 (2.49)	0.56(0.28)	4.94 (2.77)
Mitsubishi			
	1.2 (0.527)	0.4(0.155)	1.6 (0.682)
Mazda			
	1.9 (0.968)	0.4(0.218)	2.3 (1.186)
Total			
	14.2(6.785)	3.62(1.753)	17.82(8.538)

Auto Industry Views Concessions

OW0801120492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—The Japanese automobile industry was displeased with major concessions made by major automakers to ease automotive trade friction with the United States, industry sources said Wednesday.

Five major Japanese car manufacturers, led by Toyota Motor Corp., have announced plans to more than double their purchases of auto parts and components from U.S. suppliers in fiscal 1994 to 17.8 billion dollars.

Yutaka Kume, president of Nissan Motor Co., said "We have done all we could," referring to targets set by the Japanese automakers for their purchases from U.S. makers.

An executive of a major automaker, however, expressed displeasure over the concessions made by the Japanese industry, saying: "It's like managed trade. It's a virtual automotive trade agreement between Japan and the United States."

The industry sources expressed concern that the Japanese concessions will pave the way for a voluntary reduction of Japanese car exports to the United States.

Japan now limits its car exports to the United States to 2.3 million vehicles a year under the voluntary restraint agreement although its actual shipments amount to less than 1.8 million units.

The Japanese automakers also offered to help the "Big Three" U.S. auto manufacturers, General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Corp., to increase their car sales in Japan.

Some Japanese industry officials expressed doubt the targets laid down by the Japanese automakers could be attained.

They questioned whether the concessions made by Japan would help improve the bilateral trade imbalance, largely in Japan's favor.

"We would rather prefer to slash our car exports to the United States," said a senior official of an automaker.

NTT on Procuring U.S. Software

OW0801073592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0646 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) said Wednesday it is ready to purchase computer software from U.S. suppliers if governmental arrangements on the matter are made.

"There is room to purchase a certain amount of software from the United States if arrangements are made," NTT President Masashi Kojima told a regular news conference.

Negotiations on Japanese imports of U.S. computer software have been under way since late last year as part of bilateral computer trade talks.

NTT, Japan's leading domestic telecommunications firm, has been trying to increase its purchases of equipment from foreign suppliers.

The company has also stepped up joint development of telecommunications equipment and devices with foreign makers.

NTT's procurement from foreign suppliers in fiscal 1990 totaled 65.6 billion yen or about 465 million dollars, up a hefty 30 percent over the preceding year on the yen basis, the company said.

Toshiba Machine To Boost Imports

OW0801081092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0753 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Toshiba Machine Co. will increase imports and overses procurement of locally-produced goods in line with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry's import boosting program, "business global partnership," the company announced Wednesday.

The plan calls for a 1.8-fold increase in imports to 940 million yen worth in fiscal 1993 from the estimated fiscal 1991 level of 523 million yen.

There is to be a special focus on components such as bearings, semiconductors, and rotary encoders, and on equipment such as measuring and analyzing devices and machine tools, the company said.

The major Japanese machine tool maker, affiliated with Japanese electronic giant Toshiba Corp., was condemned by the Coordinating Committee for Export Control (Cocom) in 1987 for exporting sophisticated milling machines to the former Soviet Union.

The company was prohibited from exporting any product to the United States between late 1988 and December 1991 under the U.S. Trade Act.

Traders Aim To Increase FY '93 Imports by 25%

OW0801075392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0718 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Japan's seven middle-sized trading companies plan to increase imports by an average of some 25 percent in fiscal 1993 over the amount in fiscal 1990, industry sources said Wednesday.

Each of the seven firms—Tomen Corp., Kanematsu Corp., Nichimen Corp., Iwatani International Corp., Kinsho-Mataichi Corp., Toyota Tsusho Corp., and Nissei Sangyo Co.—created the "business global partnership" scheme to correct the nation's trade imbalance, the sources said.

According to the scheme, which is focusing on expansion of imports and cooperation in promoting foreign companies' exports to Japan, the traders aim to increase imports of manufactured goods by an average of about 50 percent in fiscal 1993, compared with the amount in fiscal 1990, they said.

The program also includes cooperation in expediting foreign companies' access to the Japanese market and receipt of orders for projects in third nations jointly with foreign firms, they said.

At the end of last year six major trading companies, including C. Itoh and Co., disclosed their programs, which aim at increasing imports by an average of 10 percent per annum, they said.

Farmers, Consumers on Rice Market Liberalization

OW0801073792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0643 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Over 100 Japanese farmers and consumers staged a rally here Wednesday to protest a possible opening of the Japanese rice market as U.S. President George Bush pressed Japan anew to open the market.

About 100 farmers and some 30 consumers rallied in front of Shimbashi railway station in central Tokyo.

The rally was organized by three civic consumer groups and a national farmers union.

About 25 of the protesters later delivered protest notes and a big cake of rice to the U.S. embassy.

They asked embassy staffers to give the protest notes and cake to President Bush.

The notes said liberalizing the rice market would destroy Japanese agriculture.

A female protester told the embassy officials that the liberalization will threaten the food security of the Japanese people.

Sumitomo, Foreign Partners To End Affiliation

OW0801131692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1227 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Osaka, Jan. 8 KYODO—Sumitomo Pharmaceuticals Co. said Wednesday it will terminate sales contracts with the Japanese subsidiaries of two major foreign drug makers at the end of 1994.

The major Japanese drug maker said the two partners, Japan Upjohn Ltd. of the United States and ICI Pharma Ltd. of Britain will start selling their products through their own sales networks from January 1995.

Sumitomo officials said Japan's unique corporate affiliation, known as Keiretsu, began to fall apart in the pharmaceutical industry last year, driving the two foreign partners to do business in Japan on their own.

Combined sales of the two firms totaled about 70 billion yen in 1990, against Sumitomo's annual turnover of about 180 billion yen.

UK Invites Miyazawa To Attend UN Summit

OW0801042092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0411 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Japan is preparing for the possibility that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa may meet with the other leaders of the United Nations Security Council member nations, the chief government spokesman said Wednesday.

British Prime Minister John Major sent Miyazawa a letter asking him to attend a meeting Major has proposed for January 30 at the UN, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told reporters.

Britain, one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, holds the presidency of the council this month. Japan was elected in October to one of the 10 rotating seats on the panel.

However, Miyazawa may not be able to attend the UN high-level meeting because an ordinary session of the Diet will convene January 24, government officials said.

Major proposed the Security Council meeting to discuss transferring the former Soviet Union's permanent council seat to Russia and other issues surrounding the collapse of the former communist superpower, Kato told a regularly scheduled press conference.

The British embassy in Tokyo has already told Japan that Britain wants Miyazawa or a replacement to attend the meeting, embassy officials said.

Osaka Plans To Send Medicine to St. Petersburg

OW0801081592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0754 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Osaka, Jan. 8 KYODO—Osaka officials said Wednesday the city will send 3 million yen worth of medicine to its Russian sister city of St. Petersburg.

The medicine, expected to be shipped in the middle of January, will be sufficient for 5,000 people, mainly children and the elderly, the officials said.

The shipment will include antibiotics, blood plasma, pain relievers, and antifever drugs, they said.

Official Probe of East Timor Shootings Praised

OW0701092292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0915 GMT 07 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—The Japanese Foreign Ministry on Tuesday praised the Indonesian Government's preliminary report on last November's Army killings in East Timor, calling it "objective and straightforward."

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Taizo Watanabe told foreign correspondents that the December 26 preliminary report was "objective and straightforward in its reference to the number of casualties and the overreaction of the troops."

The report by the government's investigation commission said about 50 people were killed and 91 wounded when troops fired on a crowd of more than 2,000 mourners in Dili, the capital of the former Portuguese territory which was annexed by Indonesia in 1976.

The Indonesian Government initially claimed that only 19 people had died in the incident.

Watanabe hailed the fact that Indonesian President Suharto, on receiving the commission's report, "immediately admitted the responsibility of the military and took the drastic step of removing the two commanders directly responsible, which is rather unusual."

That action, he said, "indicates that the Indonesian Government seriously recognizes the gravity of the incident and manifests its posture to respond in a straightforward manner to the international community's concern over human rights."

Watanabe also noted that Suharto called for "self-correction" on the part of the government and the military, while saying that such an incident must never happen again.

He said the Indonesian leader "has also ordered strict legal treatment of rioters, a search for missing persons, and improvement of social conditions for the local residents (in East Timor)."

Only two days before the report was released, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said the East Timor problem would be a factor when deciding whether to provide aid to Indonesia.

Japan, Indonesia's largest aid donor, has budgeted 240 billion yen in official development assistance to Indonesia in fiscal 1991, which lasts through March 31.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and annexed it the following year. The United Nations recognized Portugal as the legitimate administrative authority at the time.

Human rights groups say as many as 200,000 of East Timor's 650,000 population may have died from fighting or famine since it was annexed.

Dumping of Pakistani Cotton Yarn Suspected

OW0801082792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0809 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—The Japan Spinners' Association said Wednesday it has launched an investigation of surging imports of cotton yarn from Pakistan on suspicion of dumping.

The association said the investigation is focused on domestic and export prices of cotton yarn in Pakistan and its prices in Japan.

Keita Taguchi, president of the association and of the major textile maker Unitika Ltd., said the Pakistani industry has come under strong criticism for its unfair export stance, and the association will present sufficient data on suspected dumping in Japan to take appropriate measures.

The association said it would appeal to the Japanese Government to bring the case to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) if the investigation produces evidence to support the allegations.

It said the Multinational Fiber Agreement (MFA), concluded in 1974 to avoid massive exports of low-priced textile goods from developing nations, will be incorporated in the GATT under the current Uruguay Round multilateral trade talks.

Kanemaru Accepts Offer of LDP Vice Presidency

OW0801084292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0833 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru on Wednesday accepted Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's offer to be Vice President of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] in a meeting at the prime minister's official residence, LDP officials said.

An LDP power broker who is currently president of the biggest faction within the party founded by former Premier Noboru Takeshita, Kanemaru gave no reply when asked to assume the LDP vice presidency by Miyazawa last December.

At that time, Takeshita faction executives also agreed to turn down the request.

But Kanemaru told Takeshita and former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, also of the Takeshita faction, that he wanted to assume the post to strengthen the government following its failure to pass the controversial U.N. peace cooperation bill in the Diet, sources close to Kanemaru said.

Kanemaru was one of the handful of political power brokers who effectively decided that Miyazawa would succeed Toshiki Kaifu as Japanese prime minister.

Kanemaru formally accepted Miyazawa's request after Takeshita and other faction leaders agreed, the sources said.

Short-, Long-Term Money Rates Return to Normal

OW0701135192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1341 GMT 07 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—Japan's short-term money rates dropped sharply Tuesday, ending the "inverted" relationship between short- and long-term interest rates for the first time in almost two and a half years, money market sources said.

The rate on three-month certificates of deposit (cds) newly issued by major Japanese commercial banks, the yardstick for short-term money rates, fell to 5.27 percent a year, down 0.61 percentage point from the 5.88 percent it stood at late last year just before a 0.5 point cut in Japan's official discount rate to 4.5 percent December 30.

On the other hand, the yield on the long-term No. 129 government bond issue, which is seen as a benchmark for long-term interest rates, stood at 5.29 percent at the end of the day.

Contrary to common economic sense, short-term interest rates have been higher than long-term rates since June 1989, except for a brief period immediately after the outbreak of the Persian Gulf crisis in August 1990. At that time long-term interest rates shot up temporarily.

Short- and long-term money rates have shifted toward normalcy as the Bank of Japan moved to ease credit conditions in the face of the slowing domestic economy. Short-term money rates have dropped at a faster pace than long-term rates since the year-end official discount rate cut.

A Bank of Japan source said, "the central bank has recently allowed money market rates to fall to signal to the market that there won't be another official discount rate cut."

Major Banks To Cut Short-Term Prime Rates

OW0801085192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0817 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Six major commercial banks announced Wednesday they will cut their short-term prime lending rates to an annual 5.875 percent, though effective from different dates.

The six banks are Sumitomo Bank, Mitsui Taiyo Kobe Bank, the Bank of Tokyo (BOT), Tokai Bank, Kyowa Saitama Bank, and Hokkaido Takushoku Bank.

The BOT and Tokai will implement their cuts on Thursday, Sumitomo and Mitsui Taiyo Kobe on Friday, and the others next Monday, according to the companies.

Sumitomo bank has already slashed its short-term prime rate by 0.5 percentage point to 6.125 percent effective Monday, in line with the 0.5 percentage point official discount rate cut by the Bank of Japan on December 30 last year.

However, a recent further easing in the yen-denominated money market forced the Osaka-based city bank to decide on another cut.

Meanwhile, the BOT and Tokai, which announced earlier a cut in their rates to 6.125 percent from Thursday, suddenly decided to increase their reduction amount just before putting the cut into effect.

The short-term prime rate is the rate charged on loans of less than one year to their most creditworthy corporate clients.

Council Recommends Rate Cut in Postal Savings

OW0801085392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0819 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—The Postal Services Council recommended Wednesday to Posts and Telecommunications Minister Hideo Watanabe a cut in interest rates for postal savings in line with the official discount rate cut late last year.

The Bank of Japan lowered its base rate by 0.5 percentage point to 4.5 percent on December 30.

The recommendations said the rate for fixed-amount postal savings with a deposit period of three years or longer lowered by 0.5 percentage point to an annual 5.00 percent.

According to the recommendations, the rate for ordinary savings will be cut to 2.40 percent per annum from the current 2.80 percent and for one-year fixed savings to 4.75 percent from 5.25 percent per year, ministry officials said.

The cuts will come into force after being approved at Friday's regular cabinet meeting, they said.

Fiscal Conditions 'Conducive' to Balanced Growth

OW0801073892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0713 GMT 08 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday current monetary conditions are conducive for noninflationary and balanced growth of the Japanese economy.

Mieno told a press conference that the latest cut in the official discount rate has set the stage for the Japanese economy to get back on a recovery path after a period of adjustment.

The central bank is expecting last month's reduction in the key lending rate to support corporate capital spending and improve business sentiment.

The bank, in a surprise move December 30, lowered the benchmark rate 0.5 percentage point to 4.5 percent per year.

Drops in short-term rates on the market following the discount rate cut are also creating conditions necessary for balanced growth, Mieno said.

The current decline in short-term rates is "smooth" this time, he said. Mieno last year expressed irritation at the perceived tardy response of the money market after a discount rate cut.

Mieno said the current downtrend in the money market is a "natural move" that reflects the BOJ's policy stance.

The central banker also said that domestic service prices still require close watching amid the tight labor market, while wholesale prices have been well controlled.

The BOJ will continue seeking a "cautious monetary policy with price stability as the basic objective," he said.

Mieno reiterated that the yen should stabilize in an upward direction against the dollar, but added an excessive upswing is not desirable for the world economy.

NTT Succeeds in High-Speed Optical Transmission

OW0701101392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1001 GMT 07 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. said Tuesday it has succeeded in an experiment with very high-speed transmission of information through its optical fiber cable linking Tokyo and the central Japan city of Hamamatsu.

The giant telecommunications company in Japan said the success means it will seek applications from domestic and foreign firms for joint development of a high-speed land and submarine optical transmission system for practical use within a few years.

The company said a transmission speed of 10 gigabits per second was achieved in the experiment conducted through the 1,260 kilometer-long optical cable between Tokyo and Hamamatsu. One gigabit equals one billion bits.

The company said the Tokyo-Hamamatsu line, with a normal capacity equivalent to 8,000 standard telephone circuits, is currently used to transmit information at a speed of 400 megabits, or 400 million bits, per second.

The success is epochal since it will enable the cable's transmission capacity to be boosted to the equivalent of 130,000 telephone circuits, the company said.

It said optical signals were transmitted with the aid of optical boosters instead of first being converted into electric signals, allowing for high-speed transmission.

The company also said optical signal boosters were only required every 80 kilometers, compared with every 40 kilometers using conventional methods, making it possible to reduce cable construction costs by more than 60 percent.

North Korea

Reunification Committee on Team Spirit Suspension

SK0801121192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Statement issued by the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland on 8 January in Pyongyang—read by announcer]

[Text] The South Korean Defense Ministry, the South Korean-U.S. Combined Forces Command, and the U.S. Defense Department jointly announced on 7 January that the Team Spirit joint military exercise for 1992 would be discontinued.

Today, when the North and South have agreed on nonaggression and when an important first step has been taken toward detente and peace on the Korean peninsula, whether the Team Spirit joint military exercise will be conducted is of great concern to the people at home and abroad. The decision to discontinue this year's Team Spirit joint military exercise at such a time is very noteworthy and fortunate.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise, based on the U.S. strategies for Asia and targeting us as the enemy, has been conducted for several months every year, and the massive South Korean forces have been mobilized in this exercise along with the U.S. nuclear forces. As the world well knows, this is a very dangerous preliminary war and test nuclear war that gravely threatens our nation's existence and peace in Asia and the world. For this very reason, for the 16 years since they started the Team Spirit joint military exercise, we have consistently and strongly demanded that the United States and South Korea discontinue this adventurous war exercise. Despite our repeated demand, however, the South Korean authorities have continued the Team Spirit joint military exercise without skipping even a year. Rather, they have expanded its scale each year. Whenever this war exercise was conducted, a dark cloud of war hovered heavily over the Korean peninsula; North-South dialogue, which had been proceeding smoothly, was suspended; and our nation has been dismayed at those who suspended the dialogue and has lived with anxiety under the threat of nuclear war.

The South Korean authorities, turning a blind eye to all of these consequences, have conducted the Team Spirit joint military exercise every year with the U.S. troops. This shows that they want neither dialogue for reunification nor peace in the country and her peaceful reunification. Moreover, their conducting a war exercise against their fellow countrymen was a great shame from a national standpoint as well. As a matter of course, this has been denounced by all the fellow countrymen who yearn for peace in the country and her peaceful reunification and by the world's peace-loving people.

In view of the nation's earnest desire for peace and peaceful reunification and in view of peace in Asia and the world, the Team Spirit joint military exercise should have been discontinued long ago, not this year.

Even though their decision is late, we welcome the South Korean authorities' decision not to conduct the Team Spirit joint military exercise this year.

The discontinuation of the Team Spirit joint exercise this year is the valuable result of our consistent and sincere efforts for peace. It is also the valuable result of the movement against war and for peace, which all of the fellow countrymen in the North and the South have vigorously launched. In addition, this is the victory of the peace line over the war line.

The Korean peninsula, which has been one of the most acute places of confrontation and war in the world, is joining the trends of the times and moving toward detente and peace.

The Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchanges Between the North and the South has been adopted. The North and the South agreed to accept a joint declaration on turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. They have also decided to forgo the Team Spirit joint exercise. This is clearly progress toward peace.

The North and the South should never stop or reverse this positive development, come what may. They should dissipate the current military confrontation as soon as possible and further try to achieve a firm national peace.

From this standpoint, we claim that the South Korean authorities should stop the Team Spirit joint military exercise for good, not only this year; and that they should discontinue all other large-scale military exercises that they have conducted with foreign forces against fellow countrymen, such as Rimpac and Eagle exercises.

The United States, which is also directly responsible for the peace of the Korean peninsula, should look straight at the changed reality in which the North and the South confirm nonaggression and reconciliation. We think that it should duly withdraw U.S. Forces from South Korea and give a responsible answer to the issue of withdrawing nuclear weapons.

We will continue to maintain a peace-loving attitude in the future too, as we have in the past. We will make all efforts to dissipate confrontation between the North and the South in conformity with the spirit of the North-South agreement and to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free peace zone.

[Dated] 8 January 1992 Pyongyang

Daily Criticizes Bush's Asia-Pacific Visit

SK0801053092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0023 GMT 8 Jan 92

[NODONG SINMUN 8 January commentary: "With Aim of Formulating Antirepublic Confrontation System"]

[Text] By taking some 20 major American businessmen along with him on his recent visit to the Asia-Pacific area, U.S. President Bush attempted to give the impression that his visit chiefly is linked to economic and trade issues.

In view of the serious economic and trade crisis of the United States, it is true that his visit is also aimed at dealing with such issues. However, foreign news media reported that during his visit, Bush made firm commitments to security in this area and stressed that the United States is a Pacific state.

This shows that the main purpose of the U.S. President's visit is to strengthen the U.S. position in the Asia-Pacific area.

A U.S. intelligence officer who accompanied the President said that forming a security network for the Asia-Pacific area to cope with any possbile conflict aggravated in the area is an important issue for the United States to pursue during the current visit of its President. He added that this security network will include the United States, Japan, South Korea, and the like.

While touring South Korea, Bush reconfirmed the security commitment and openly stated that the United States will continue to keep U.S. troops in South Korea. This indicates that the U.S. person in authority is attempting to accelerate the formation of a U.S.-Japan-South Korea tripartite military alliance through his current visit to Asia and the Pacific and to further expand this alliance. This also shows that he is trying to intensify military confrontation maneuvers against our Republic.

Even while talking about the end of the cold war and collapse of the East-West confrontation, the United States is, in actuality, not going to retreat from its Cold War policy.

The United States is attempting to establish an important venue [chungyo madang] of the cold war in Asia under a changed situation and, by so doing, it is trying to strengthen the antisocialist confrontation system. Thus, it is accelerating the formation of such a system.

For this, the United States is loudly talking about the instability and uncertainty of the Asian situation. With this as an excuse, it has completely canceled even the nominal troop reduction plan. Thus, the United States is reinforcing its armed forces in this area.

The U.S. authorities, including U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney, said that there will be no reduction in U.S. troops in the Asia-Pacific area and the U.S. strategy for deployment of U.S. armed forces in this area will not change.

By taking the enormous U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Army troops deployed in the Asia-Pacific area, including South Korea and Japan, as a basic means for a cold war in this area, the United States is attempting to threaten and menace the progressive forces and to exercise force of arms against them.

In addition, the United States put special emphasis on the importance of U.S.-Japan security in state documents concerning the military situation, saying this security system is a pillar of the U.S. Asian policy. The United States also stressed the necessity of strengthening the U.S.-South Korea alliance and Japan-South Korea security cooperation.

The United States revealed its plan to drag other countries in Asia into a tripartite military alliance system. Such a move by the United States clearly shows that it is trying to form a new collective military alliance in the Asia-Pacific area on the pretext of a security network and to use this area as an important leverage for its military confrontation policy.

Japan's persistent attempt to dispatch Self-Defense Forces overseas as UN peace-keeping troops shows its intent to play an important role in the U.S. security network in Asia.

As was clearly shown by the remarks of the U.S. authorities that the United States will maintain deployment of U.S. troops in advanced areas in South Korea and will put these troops on alert posture, the U.S. imperialists are attempting to center the spearhead of their security network on our Republic—a stronghold of socialism—according to their global strategy and Asian-Pacific strategy. The United States is also attempting to aggravate the cold war and to advance along the road of a new war by artificially kicking off a conflict on the Korean peninsula based on its strategy for resolution of local disputes.

Pointing out the Korean peninsula as the next area where a war can break out, the U.S. imperialists are dragging various types of ultramodern weapons, which were tested in the Persian Gulf war, and other war equipment into South Korea. No one would think this is an accident.

Furthermore, they aggravated the situation on the Korean peninsula to an extreme point by repeatedly waging their slanderous propaganda about our development of nuclear weapons and by staging nuclear war exercises. This is a situation one should not overlook.

Bush's visit to the Asian-Pacific area, in particular, to South Korea, is bringing the wind of a new cold war and increasing the danger of war in this area. This is an intolerable act which runs counter to the spirit of peace and peaceful reunification which is being enhanced in Korea and which endangers security in Asia.

It seems that the United States has no intention to ease military confrontation on the Korean peninsula but rather it is going to use such confrontation for anti-Republic maneuvers by aggravating it. Insincerity of the United States in dialogue with us in connection with the Korean issue must have proceeded from this position.

If the United States wants peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in Asia, it should end the military confrontation maneuvers which endangers them and pull out U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from all Asian-Pacific areas including South Korea. This is a solemn demand of the time.

Seoul Reports on Protests Against Bush Visit

SK0801054392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—About 300 students of the South Cholla Provincial Federation of General Student Councils involving Chonnam National University and Choson University staged a demonstration on January 6, shouting slogans against Bush's tour of South Korea and the import of U.S. rice, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The students staged a torchlight demonstration before the "American Cultural Center" in Kwangju and threw fire bottles at the police trying to check them.

Some 300 students of Kyongnam University and Changwon University held a street demostration in Masan, distributing to citizens leaflets opposing the market opening for U.S. rice.

Peasants in Sinam Sub-County, Yesan County, South Chungchong Province, held a meeting against the import of the U.S. rice.

The Christian Joint Measures Committee for the Uruguay Round in a statement strongly urged the United States to withdraw the pressure for rice market opening which would rob 7 million peasants of South Korea of the right to live and apologize to them.

The headquarters of the People's Movement for Eating Our Agricultural and Livestock Products in a statement said "the United States must give up the pressure for opening the rice market ignoring our peasants' right to live and the security of people's food" and the Christian Youth Council and the General Federation of Korean Christian Students in a joint statement demanded that the United States discontinue the unjust pressure for rice market opening and interference in other's domestic affairs.

DPRK Embassies Abroad Hold Press Conferences

SK0701061092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] In connection with the DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement on nuclear inspection dated 22 December, the DPRK Embassies in Laos, India, Guinea, Guyana, Gambia, and Lebanon held news conferences on 26 and 27 December.

A portrait of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was on the podium at the news conferences. Reporters from the countries' newspapers, news agencies, and broadcasting stations were present at the press conferences.

Our ambassadors informed the reporters in detail of the DPRK Foreign Ministry spokeman's statement. They said that the Republic's government is making consistent efforts to withdraw the nuclear weapons from South Korea, eliminate the danger of nuclear war, and turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. The ambassadors answered the reporters' questions.

South's Reverend Kwon Arrives in Pyongyang

SK0801055492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—Rev. Kwon Ho-kyong, director of the National Council of Christian Churches of South Korea, arrived here Tuesday [7 January].

Present at the airport to receive him were Rev. Ko Ki-chun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Korean Christians Federation, and officials of the federation.

Officials Meet Indian, Peruvian Party Leaders

SK0801050192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—Foreign party leaders expressed support to the successes of the Korean people in socialist construction.

E.M.S. Namboodiripad, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), said, when he met Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, that the Communist Party of India (Marxist) is maintaining the policy of resolutely supporting the struggle of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people for socialist construction and national reunification.

He stated that he would support with might and main in the future, too, the struggle of the Korean people for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Rolando Brena Pantoja [name as received], president of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru, warmly congratulated the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il upon his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army when he met the DPRK ambassador to Peru.

He admired the Korean people who are successfully building Korean-style socialism centering on the people.

Indian Communist Leader Greets Kim Chong-il

SK0801045292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—Sitaram Yechury, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), in an interview with a KCNA correspondent in India congratulated the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il upon his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA].

He said:

The election of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the KPA is of weighty significance in smashing the anti-socialist moves and anti-DPRK campaign of the imperialists at present, defending the socialist motherland and maintaining peace and security in Korea and Asia.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has not only definitely achieved the unity and cohesion of the leader, the party and the masses and built up the revolutionary ranks as firm as a rock by wisely leading the party and state affairs but also strengthened and developed the KPA into powerful revolutionary armed forces.

He expressed the belief that under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il the struggle of the Korean people for socialist cause and national reunification will certainly be crowned with victory.

Te supported the consistent peaceloving stand and efforts of the DPRK for the peace and peaceful reunification of Korea and demanded that the reunification of Korea be achieved by means of founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo.

Meeting Marks Start of 'Palestinian Revolution'

SK0801053892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—A meeting was held here Tuesday [7 January] on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the start of the Palestinian revolution and the "day of international solidarity with the Palestinian people".

Addressing the meeting, Won Tong-ku, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea and chairman of the Korea-Palestine Friendship and Solidarity Committee, recalled the foundation of the state of Palestine in 1988. This, he said, gave new confidence and courage to the Palestinian people and made them wage a more daring struggle.

Today the Palestinian people are waging a more dynamic struggle to consolidate the position of the state of Palestine and restore their legal national rights under the guidance of Comrade Yasir 'Arafat, he said.

He pointed out that Israel, under the patronage of the U.S. imperialists, is resorting to every conceivable way and means to exclude the Palestine Liberation Organization, the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in the course of the Middle East peace conference. Israel must halt at once the building of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab lands and completely withdraw from this region, he demanded.

Our people, he stressed, will always struggle side by side with the Palestinian people in accomplishing the common cause for anti- imperialism, independence and national liberation as in the past.

Mustafa al-Safarini, Palestinian ambassador to Korea, in his speech congratulated the Korean people, chuche-type soldiers faithful to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, for their achievements made in the unique Korean-style socialist construction.

The adoption of "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" last year is a token of the greatness and sagacity of the Korean leadership and its victory, he emphasized.

By electing the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, an iron-willed brilliant commander, as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, the Korean people gained a basic guarantee for the victorious advance of the revolution and expressed their firm will to continue the revolutionary cause started by the great leader, he noted.

Noting that this year the Korean people will greet the 80th birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the 50th birthday of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the greatest national holidays, he said that the Palestinian people and the world people who love justice, peace and freedom will celebrate these days.

He further said:

We feel great pride when we see the enormous and admirable achievements made by Korea, an unconquarable socialist bastion winning one victory after another. This proves the solidness of the chuche-based peculiar Korean-style socialist system and its majestic appearance.

The Korean people united around Comrade President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il with one mind are smashing all plots of the imperialists with indestructible might.

We firmly support the proposal for founding a democratic confederal republic of Koryo and all the realistic, constructive and bold peace proposals and initiatives of Comrade Kim Il-song.

At the meeting a letter to the president of the state of Palestine was adopted.

Earlier, the participants saw pictures showing the struggle of the Palestinian people.

A film show was arranged that day.

Kim Chong-il Receives More New Year Greetings

*SK0801102992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1005 GMT 8 Jan 92*

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings on the occasion of the new year 1992 from Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic Party; Gus Hall, national chairman of the Communist Party of the United States of America; Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party of the United States; Sam Marcy, chairman of the Workers World Party of the United States; Rashid Khan Menon, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh; and Genaro Ledesma Izquieta, chairman of the People's Front of Workers, Peasants and Students and chairman of the United Left of Peru.

They wished the Korean people greater success in their struggle to reunify the country in the new year.

SKNDF Urges 'Accelerating' Democratization

*SK0801051792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0423 GMT 8 Jan 92*

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) sent a letter on January 1 to the South Korean people on the occasion of the new year, according to radio Voice of National Salvation from Seoul.

Stating that the national democratic movement this year should take the course of accelerating the struggle for democratisation against fascism and the struggle for national reunification and developing it into an anti-U.S. struggle for independence, the letter said: "Let us terminate the military dictatorial 'regime' and establish a democratic government!"—this is the slogan to be constantly upheld this year in the struggle for democracy against fascism.

Saying that all the political parties, organisations and people of all strata opposed to fascism and desirous of democracy should develop an effective "election" tactics, laying stress on the struggle to defeat the "Democratic Liberal Party" on the basis of the strategy of unity, the letter stressed that unconditional joint candidacy of the pan-opposition camp should be effected and all the polling stations should be turned into places of judgement to destroy the military dictatorship.

This year all the pro-reunification patriotic forces should expand the movement for national reunification into an all-people's mass struggle, with emphasis on the struggle for national reunification by means of confederacy, combining it with the struggle for releasing the reunification champions and the struggle for abolishing the "National Security Law", the letter said.

Stressing that the anti-U.S. struggle for independence is the main task of struggle facing the national democratic movement this year, the letter said all the patriotic forces should persistently conduct the struggle for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces and, at the same time, activate the struggle for the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, thus dealing a decisive blow at the U.S. colonial domination.

The letter called for a more organized massive struggle of peasants against rice market opening and its development into an all-people solidarity and joint struggle.

Public Leaders Support DPRK Reunification Stand

*SK0801055392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0445 GMT 8 Jan 92*

["Chairmen of Public Organizations Call for Opening Decisive Phase for National Reunification"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address gave a comprehensive exposition of the questions of maintaining the independent stand, creating preconditions for a peaceful reunification and achieving a great national unity as the principled stand and practical way of reunifying the country at an early date on the basis of the three principles of national reunification, said Won Tong-ku, chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, in a statement on January 7.

The independent stand is the starting point in the struggle for national reunification and the basic stand that must be firmly maintained in the whole course of the movement for reunification, he said, and continued:

Only when the independent stand is maintained is it possible to solve any problem concerning reunification in conformity with the interests and demand of our nation.

If the South Korean authorities truly have regard for the nation and want reunification, they must not depend on outside forces which are responsible for the division of the nation but fully rely on the internal forces of the nation.

Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the C.C., the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, in a statement tuesday said: In his New Year address the great leader clearly outlined the principled stand of ours toward the nuclear inspection problem, saying the important thing to be settled primarily in achieving national reunification is to create preconditions for a peaceful reunification.

Since the North and the South already promised nonaggression to each other and agreed upon "declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula", no one has any ground to put pressure on us over the nuclear problem. If the countries concerned truly want peace on the Korean peninsula, they must respect the spirit of the inter-Korean agreement and actively help our nation settle the reunification question independently and peacefully.

The South Korean authorities, in conformity with the North-South agreement, must refrain from obstructing independent exchange and contact between students of the North and the South and suppressing the righteous struggle of the South Korean students for independence, democracy and national reunification, Choe Yong-hae stressed.

More Mass Rallies Held on Kim Il-song's Speech

SK0801054992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0451 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—Mass rallies were held in South Hamgyong and Kangwon Provinces and Kaesong Municipality to thoroughly implement the tasks set forth by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

The reporters and speakers said that the bright militant program of the new year unfolded by the great leader instills great confidence and courage into the hearts of the party members and working people and vigorously encourages them to new endeavours and feats.

They stressed the need to strictly apply the chuche idea in all domains in accordance with this year's general direction of socialist construction indicated by the great leader and thus make our revolutionary ranks more invincible politically and ideologically, increase the economic potentials of the country by successfully implementing the line of building the independent national economy and give full play to the advantages of the sound and revolutionary socialist culture.

They said the production of electricity and coal should be increased and the railway transport developed as they are important and urgent tasks in socialist economic construction, and scientists and technicians should fulfil the three-year plan for scientific and technological development and all the domains of the building of socialist culture including education should be developed rapidly.

They called upon all the party members and working people to devote their all to a nationwide patriotic struggle to pull down the barrier of division and open the door of reunification at an early date.

The entire party members and working people should make a breakthrough in the march with the might of unity in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle and successfully fulfil the tasks set forth by the great leader in his new year address and thus display in every way the honor and dignity of Korea of chuche which is advancing under the banner of socialism, they stressed.

Resolutions were adopted at the rallies.

Power Industry Officials Attend to Projects

SK0801043092 Pyongyang KCNA in English
2149 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—Official workers in the domaim of power industry are working hard to carry through the New Year address on the great leader President Kim Il-song which set it as one of the major tasks of socialist economic construction to increase the production of electricity.

Leading officials of the Power Industry Commission went down to power stations and construction sites of power stations to acquaint themselves with the actual conditions and solved knotty problems, thus bringing about innovations in the production of electricity and the constructon of power stations.

Workers of thermal power stations in Pyongyang, Pukchang, Sunchon, Chongjin and other areas have opened a prospect for the production of 600,000-700,000 more kwh [kilowatt hours] of electricity in a short period, keeping production on a high level through scrupulous management of major generating equipment and technical control and by actively introducing advanced methods of operation.

Entering the new year, hydraulic power stations have increased the average daily power output by hundreds of thousands of kwh above that in the last days of last year by operating the generating equipment in full capacity, while strictly meeting the requirements of the technical regulations and standard operation methods in the operation and control of generating equipment.

Power station constructors in different places of the country are striving to hasten the commissioning of the power stations now under construction.

Documentary Film Studio Releases New Films

SK0401151892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1504 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 4 (KCNA)—The Korean Documentary Film Studio has recently released several documentaries.

A documentary film "Great Changes" gives an epical picture of part of the immortal feats performed by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who, successfully carrying forward and developing the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's chuche-based idea of architectural aesthetics, has wisely led the work in the construction domain to bring about great changes in the construction of modern dwelling houses, monumental edifices, cultural and welfare facilities and in land development in a matter of 10 years.

A documentary film "Voices of Solidarity of the World's People for Korea's Reunification" shows the international solidarity march for supporting Korea's reunification and various functions held by the march squad in Pyongyang and local areas from the end of September to early October last year.

And "The Second Seminar on 'Peace in Asia and the Role of Women'" shows activities of the North side's delegation led by Yo Yon-ku, vice-chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, during the seminar.

Besides, the new documentaries include "Forerunners in the 'Let-All-Family-Operate-Machines Movement'" which introduces Yongyon County integrated farm in South Hwanghae Province where the first torch of the movement was raised and the family of Pak Chong-kuk, a pioneer of this movement, and "Hydro-Power Station Builders" which tells about the loyalty and feats of the constructors who have erected embankments of eternal value and built power stations in different parts of the country.

Daily Stresses Launching 'Three Revolutions'

SK0801011992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0009 GMT 6 Jan 92

[NODONG SINMUN 6 January editorial: "Let Us Accelerate Socialist Construction by Vigorously Launching the Three Revolutions"]

[Text] In his new year address, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song gave a teaching on establishing the chuche principle more firmly in all fields by vigorously launching the three revolutions.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Our general direction in socialist construction at the present is to establish the chuche principle more firmly in all fields—political, economic, and cultural—so that we may actively cope with the rapidly changing situation on our own initiative by vigorously launching the three revolutions—ideological, technical, and cultural.

The three revolutions—ideological, technical, and cultural—are a general line to which our party is consistently adhering in socialist and communist construction. When moving forward by highly upholding the banner of the three revolutions, our people do not waver no matter what antisocialist maneuvers the imperialists try and are vigorously advancing along the socialist road. The superiority of socialism of our own style is being highly manifested continuously. This is a brilliant victory achieved by the three revolutions.

Even amid a difficult environment last year, our people were able to resolutely defend the socialist banner without the slightest wavering. This was because they advanced by highly upholding the banner of the three revolutions. This year we are faced with a difficult and heavy task of further vigorously accelerating socialist construction.

As revealed in the great leader's New Year address, we will thoroughly fulfill the party's line of building an independent national economy to strengthen the nation's economic might and to satisfactorily solve the problem of providing the population with food, clothing, and housing in keeping with the requirements of socialism. Especially, the might of chuche must be further strengthened to actively deal with the rapidly changing situation. An important task here is to continue vigorously launching the three revolutions—ideological, technical, and cultural.

When moving forward by highly upholding the banner of the three revolutions, a true road is paved in brilliantly fulfilling this year's militant tasks and further highly manifesting the superiority of socialism of our own style.

The goals, tasks, and method for which we must implement the ideological revolution, technical revolution, and cultural revolution are already clearly elucidated. The problem is how to continue intensifying and fulfilling the party's three revolutions line in all fields and outposts.

Party organizations at all levels must firmly establish the revolutionary trait of persistently pushing ahead the three revolutions. Most of all, the ideological revolution must be adhered to, and, in accordance with the demand of the developing reality, all forms of the chuche idea indoctrination, including indoctrination on the principle of the chuche idea, loyalty, party policy, revolution and tradition, communism, and socialism and patriotism, must be further intensified.

The ideological indoctrination system and ideological indoctrination method established in our country are a mighty system and method which can firmly cultivate the people to become communist revolutionaries. The party organizations must adhere to the content of the ideological indoctrination. Through various forms and methods, the ideological indoctrination work must be further carried out substantially so that the chuche of our revolution can be strengthened politically and ideologically.

Being endlessly loyal and dutiful to the party and the leader is the most lofty and beautiful trait of our people and a basic element in achieving great results in socialist construction. Party organizations at all levels must substantially carry out the work to establish a revolutionary view of the leader among the party members and working people so that being loyal and dutiful to the party and the leader throughout the whole society can be overflowing.

The indoctrination work to correctly understand the essence of the superiority of the socialist system and the intrinsic nature of the reactionary imperialists in the antisocialist maneuvers must be strengthened so that the party members and working people can firmly bear in mind faith in socialism and actively struggle to manifest the superiority of socialism of our own style.

All the party members and working people must deeply bear in mind the spirit that the Korean people are number one and must firmly prepare themselves to become dedicated revolutionaries resolutely advocating and enhancing our guiding ideology and superior socialist system.

It is important to bring about a new upsurge in all sectors of the people's economy in this meaningful year. In all sectors and units, the party's technological revolution method must be brilliantly fulfilled continuously.

Each sector and unit of the people's economy should reform old facilities into modern ones and vigorously carry out the mass movements for technological innovations in accordance with the prospective targets of the socialist construction, practical demands, and the worldwide trend of scientific and technological development. Thus they should accelerate mechanization, automation, robotization, and computerization of production processes.

The revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude should be highly displayed to implement plans of the people's economy without fail and to further enhance the nation's socialist independent economic might.

The technological innovation movement should be vigorously carried out also in electricity, coal, and transportation sectors to create a new turning point in production and transportation and to meet the rapidly increasing demand for electricity, coal, and transportation.

We should increase the production of various consumers' goods of good quality, including cloth, upholding the party's light industry policy. We should also thoroughly implement the chuche farming method to remarkably increase agricultural production according to the party's intention to make this year a great bumper crop year.

A great result was achieved last year in all sectors of socialist cultural construction under the party's wise leadership. We should achieve a brilliant result this year, too, in implementing the party's cultural revolution method.

We should make a major progress in the work to accelerate intellectualization of the whole society and to further improve the workers' cultural and emotional life.

It is important that scientists and technicians vigorously struggle to implement the Three-Year Plan for Development of Science and Technology with revolutionary enthusiasm and creative activity and to achieve a remarkable development in the major fields of science and technology, thus actively contributing to realizing chucheization, modernization, and scientization of the people's economy.

Highly increasing the quality of education by thoroughly implementing the socialist educational thesis and hastening development in all sectors of socialist cultural construction also should be much stressed so as to further enhance the superiority of the sound and affluent socialist cultural life that all our people enjoy.

It is important in intensifying the three revolutions for all party members and workers to deeply feel the great pride and self-confidence in carrying out the socialist construction most successfully under the banner of the three revolutions.

The three revolutions line—ideological, technological, and cultural—is a great revolutionary line that made it possible to change our country, which was once backward, into a socialist power of independence, self-reliance, and self-defense and to achieve a brilliant victory in the socialist construction.

All party members and workers should firmly realize that there is no greater line than the three revolutions line to follow in advancing toward communism, the human being's ideal.

Party members and workers should thoroughly study the great leader's masterpieces and the party documents on the three revolutions and master the justness and truthfulness of the three revolutions line. They should know well how much vitality the three revolutions line is showing in our country's reality and in the practical experiences of the communist movement.

It is important to vigorously display the three revolutions as the mass movement. The main force of the three revolutions is the masses of people themselves. It is impossible to keep vigorously accelerating the three revolutions without enhancing the responsibility and role of the working masses.

We were able to achieve a great result in implementing the three revolutions in the past era through the movement to win the red banner of the three revolutions under the revolutionary slogan, "Ideology, technology, and culture—all in accordance with the demands of chuche!"

All units should constantly renew the target of the movement to win the red banner of the three revolutions and intensify the struggle to carry it out in accordance with the current situation, in which the advance of the 1990's is being vigorously made, so that the vitality and might of this movement can be continuously attested.

We should achieve a greater result in all sectors of ideology, technology, and culture by more vigorously carrying out various mass innovation movements, including the loyal movement to create model machines following No. 26 Lathe.

The three revolutions team movement is a modern method of guiding revolutions to unite the political and ideological guidance with the scientific and technological guidance and to drive the masses to accelerate the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural.

We should continuously develop the three revolutions team movement, of which the superiority and vitality has been completely proved through practice. In accordance with the demands of the Chongsan-ri spirit and Chongsan-ri method, the three revolutions team members should go down among the masses to teach them and actively arouse their revolutionary enthusiasm and creativity for the struggle of the three revolutions.

The three revolutions team members should show more initiative than anyone else to solve the imminent problems in implementing the party policy. They should also highly display the revolutionary spirit to repay the trust of the party, which named and led them as vanguards of the three revolutions and standard bearers of the struggle, with practical work results.

Our party's and people's struggle is becoming more productive and more hopeful as the great leader clearly elucidated the road ahead for our people in his new year address.

When the main force of our revolution is further strengthened in the flame of the three revolutions, we can tightly grasp our destiny under any circumstances and positively develop it to decorate the glorious year of 1992 with a brilliant victory.

KCNA Reviews Pyongyang Press for 8 Jan

SK0801060692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Press Review]

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries messages of greetings to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from foreign party and state leaders on the new year.

The New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song was carried by newspapers of different countries, according to the press.

Mass meetings are being held in all provinces to carry through the New Year address of President Kim Il-song and members of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea (LSWYK) and young men of the Yongsong General Machine Bureau challenged LSWYK organisations and members across the country to a socialist emulation, says the press.

Econews of the press includes reports about innovations being effected by working people in different domains of the national economy in production and construction in hearty response to the New Year address of President Kim Il-song.

The press observes the day of building-materials industry.

Appearing in the press is a statement issued by Yom Tae-chun, presidium member of the Central Committee of the Demcratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, in support of the policy of national reunification laid down by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

In the New Year address, President Kim Il-song laid emphasis on the questions of achieving a great national unity and of developing external relations in the idea of independence, peace and friendship. In this connection, NODONG SINMUN runs articles.

Conveyed in the daily are voices of foreign political and public figures highly praising President Kim Il-song as a genius of creation and construction.

Printed in the daily are messages of greetings to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign party leaders on his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and on the new year.

Foreign publications reported about the election of Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for more deeply cherishing a high sense of national pride and self-confidence.

Seen in the press is a statement of a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry clarifying the DPRK's stand toward the nuclear inspection question.

Given in NODONG SINMUN is a report that the Egyptian president visited the DPRK wing of the Cairo international book fair.

It is reported in the press that the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front sent a letter to the South Korean people on the new year.

South Korean news columns of the press include reports that peasants, students and religionists protested against Bush's South Korean trip and the U.S. pressure for rice market opening.

In a commentary NODONG SINMUN says that Bush's tour of the Asia-Pacific region, South Korea in particular, is bringing a new cold war wind to this region, increasing the danger of war.

The press informs the readers of the joint announcement of South Korea and the United States about the discontinuation of "Team Spirit" joint military exercises this year. Given in the press is an account of a meeting held in Pyongyang on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the start of the Palestinian revolution and "day of international solidarity with the Palestinian people".

International news of the press includes reports that Zhou Enlai Museum was opened in China, China criticized the Israeli decision to banish some Palestinians, the Afghan president referred to the way of solving domestic disputes, the Tunisian president talked about the justice of the road chosen by his country and the foreign minister of Russia said reduction of nuclear weapons and relaxation of arms race are goals of Russian diplomacy.

South Korea

DPRK Envoy Confirms IAEA Compliance

SK0801040292 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 8 Jan 92 p 2

[Interview with Chon In-chan, DPRK ambassador to Austria, on 7 January at embassy in Vienna]

[Text] [KYONGYHYANG SINMUN] Can you assure us that North Korea will open all nuclear facilities, including those in Yongbyon, for an international inspection after it signs the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]?

[Chon] I do not know what is in Yongbyon. We will report a list of those facilities required by the IAEA within 30 days after ratification, however.

[KYONGYHANG SINMUN] While expressing the will to sign the safeguards accord, you are delaying the signing of it until the end of the month. Why?

[Chon] The timing of the signing is a matter of an independent state's sovereignty. All of North Korea's demands with regard to nuclear inspection have been realized.

[KYONGHYANG SINMUN] Can you tell us a definite time for the signing of the accord?

[Chon] We have agreed with the IAEA that the signing of the accord will be held during the last week of January.

[KYONGHYANG SINMUN] What about a detailed plan for ratification and effectuation of the accord, once it has been signed?

[Chon] We will receive an inspection at the earliest possible date in accordance with our domestic procedures. This is our stance.

[KYONGHYANG SINMUN] Will you guarantee the IAEA inspection team freedom of inspection?

[Chon] We will deal with everything according to the regualations of the IAEA.

Envoy to U.S. on North's Inspection Compliance

SK0701142792 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Interview with Hyon Hong-chu, ROK ambassador to the United States, by KBS anchorman Pak Tae-sok on 7 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Pak Tae-sok] How are you? Following yesterday's ROK-U.S. summit talks, the ROK Defense Ministry announced today that the Team Spirit exercise would be discontinued. How thoroughly do you, Mr. Ambassador, think this issue was discussed during the summit talks?

[Hyon Hong-chu] The most important thing about the summit talks is the fact that the two countries' presidents fully exchanged views on the ROK's security, North-South relations, and all the other issues and reached a complete consensus of views. The Defense Ministry made that announcement today as a result of their full discussion on the Team Spirit issue.

[Pak] North Korea appears ready to sign the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. However, many people are concerned that it may stall for time until it subjects itself to nuclear inspection. What do you think about this?

[Hyon] Strong international punishment awaits North Korea if it stalls for time, even after saying it would sign the nuclear safeguards accord. An IAEA Board of Governors meeting will take place in February and discuss this issue. If North Korea does not enact any measures up until then, this issue will be discussed at the UN Security Council, and various forms of punishment will be doled out. Therefore, I think, it is impossible for North Korea to stall for time indefinitely.

[Pak] Some U.S. media have reported that President Bush expressed dissatisfaction, saying that no substantial progress had been made in North Korea's acceptance of nuclear inspection because we had been hasty in achieving North-South relations. Do you think this is true?

[Hyon] That is absolutely false. I heard some media had reported that. The two presidents reached a complete consensus of views in discussing North Korea's nuclear problem and all the other problems, and President Bush wholeheartedly supported a series of measures by President No Tae-u, saying they were very bold and far-sighted. Therefore, I can clearly say that report is false.

[Pak] Is it possible for the United States and North Korea to rapidly improve their relations because North Korea expressed its intention to accept nuclear inspection?

[Hyon] It is clear that accepting nuclear inspection is a precondition for improving U.S.-North Korean relations. However, this is not all. Of course, as you know, the nuclear inspection issue will not be resolved until complete inspection is conducted and until North and South Korea mutually verify the implementation of their agreement in the joint denuclearization declaration not to build nuclear reprocessing and enrichment facilities. It is too much to say that the mere signing of the nuclear safeguards accord will lead to the rapid improvement of relations between the United States and North Korea. I know that the United States is considering having contacts with North Korea to directly convey its undistorted position on the nuclear issue to the North Korean leadership. Therefore, I think it is inaccurate to forecast the rapid improvement of relations.

[Pak] The United States appears to have turned up its pressure to open our rice markets. How should we respond to this?

[Hyon] The U.S. basic position on the Uruguay Round negotiations is that all the United States expects the ROK to do is to accept the draft agreement of the Uruguay Round negotiations if it considers the draft favorable, that the United States cannot do anything about it if the ROK thinks otherwise, and that the United States is not thinking of directly pressuring us. We fully expressed our views to the United States during the summit talks, and the United States has an understanding of various difficulties facing us. Therefore, we will decide after considering what we can gain and lose from the negotiations. We will never accept the negotiations under pressure from the United States even if that may mean losses. We will decide after considering our country's interests.

U.S., ROK Discuss Contacts With DPRK

SK0801060992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0542 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States are discussing the time and place for North Korea-U.S. contacts at which American officials will press the communist country to accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities at the earliest time, a government official said Wednesday.

"It is true that South Korea and the United States are talking about the when and where of North Korea-U.S. contacts, but it has not yet been decided whether the contact will be assistant minister-level or ambassador-level," one of the officials said.

The two countries could discuss establishing direct phone lines and on-line bank accounts as well as exchanges of people and materials, he said.

Presidents No Tae-u and George Bush fully agreed in their summit Monday [6 January] that Pyongyang-Washington relations will not be normalized without complete resolution of the North Korean nuclear problem, the official said.

The reason Washington is eager to contact Pyongyang is because both it and Seoul believe recent developments in inter-Korean relations are not being fully reported to North Korean President Kim Il-song and other high-level officials, he said.

The United States recognizes that inter-Korean simultaneous inspection of civilian and military installations is between the South and the North. It is most likely to press North Korea in the contact to fulfill its obligation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and accept outside inspection of its nuclear facilities, he said.

Editorial Slams U.S. 'Interference' in Affairs

SK0801124192 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 8 Jan 92 p 2

[Editorial: "On Bush's Visit to the ROK, During Which He 'Interfered in the ROK's Internal Affairs' Without Hesitation"]

[Text] U.S. President Bush came to Seoul while farmers and university students were demonstrating across the country in opposition to the "opening of rice markets" and "interference in internal affairs." He left Seoul yesterday after concluding his three-day, two-night visit.

We cannot know in detail what the two countries' top leaders discussed during their meetings. As expected, the United States supported the continued presence of its troops in the ROK, the recent North-South agreement, the joint declaration on denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, and North-South summit talks, however; and the ROK promised to try to conclude the Uruguay Round negotiations and guarantee U.S. businessmen's unrestricted activities in the ROK. The assessment that U.S. support for North-South relations and the ROK's promise to open its markets were exchanged during the visit is convincing.

Particularly noteworthy is the fact that the two countries' top leaders agreed to discontinue this year's ROK-U.S. joint military exercise if North Korea signs the nuclear safeguards accord and expresses its clear intention to subject itself to nuclear inspection. North Korea notified the International Atomic Energy Agency on 6 January that it would sign the nuclear safeguards accord before the end of January, and the ROK Defense Ministry announced on 7 January that the Team Spirit exercise would be discontinued. Therefore, it appears that the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula will be resolved soon.

President Bush doubted that North Korea's nuclear inspection would be conducted. Also, he made clear that the "United States would continue its reconnaissance flights against North Korea until North Korea meets U.S. demands for its nuclear inspection and denuclearization." This shows how worried the United States is about North Korea's nuclear problem and how firmly it is resolved to solve this problem. In a word, the United States, which is the world's only superpower since the Gulf war, is trying to include North Korea in a global order—that it has been mapping out—using its strength. Also, President Bush clearly said that North Korea will not be able to "bypass the ROK" in improving its relations with the United States. He added the improvement of North Korea's human rights situation to the list of preconditions for improving relations between the United States and North Korea. Nevertheless, the United States said that it would upgrade contacts between North Korea and the United States to ambassadorial level only if North Korea's nuclear problem is solved. In this way, the United States is "getting its own way."

The United States did other things to incur our people's displeasure. During his speech at the ROK National Assembly, President Bush said: "The ROK has been conducting a frugality campaign and discouraging imports. We must fight to establish a trade system that is free, fair, and open, however." In saying this, he virtually interfered in our internal affairs. Also, at a luncheon for ROK and U.S. businessmen that ROK economic organizations arranged for him, he said: "All the world's trading countries must join U.S. efforts to ensure that the Uruguay Round negotiations be concluded based on GATT Director General Dunkel's draft agreement." In this way, he asked the ROK to accept the unconditional opening of its agricultural markets. In response to Bush's demand for opening our agricultural markets, President No Tae-u asked him to understand that we cannot fully open our agricultural markets now because of our special circumstances and to cooperate in this matter. Also, President No Tae-u promised Bush that he would consider U.S. demands for further opening our financial markets. This means that the opening of our financial markets will be further accelerated. As though conscious of all the ROK people's opposition, Bush did not refer to opening our rice markets during his visit to the ROK. It is difficult to see that this problem has been solved completely, however. Solomon, assistant U.S. secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said: "It is most important to win the ROK's support for concluding the Uruguay Round negotiations during the visit to the ROK." Therefore, it is likely that pressures will be increased with the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations on the horizon. It is also likely that we will be asked to make various concessions to guarantee U.S. businessmen's activities.

In the ROK-U.S. summit talks, the ROK won U.S. support for our efforts to pressure North Korea to accept nuclear inspection in exchange for the opening of our markets. People must carefully watch the North-South summit talks, which the ROK Government is trying to arrange at such a steep price, to see how they will affect our domestic politics.

'Confrontation' With U.S. Over Bank Regulation

SK0801030992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Jan 92 p 10

[By staff reporter Yi Chang-sop]

[Text] Seoul and Washington could be headed for a confrontation over Korea's regulatory system when they hold "mini-financial policy talks" later this month.

As a follow-up to President George Bush's visit, James Paul, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department, will visit Seoul late this month, according to Korean and U.S. Government officials here.

Paul is sure to raise the issue of Korea's recent crackdown on foreign banks' rules violations that netted the Bank of America, Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company and Chase Manhattan Bank, analysts said.

U.S. officials indicate that Washington has no intention of meddling in Korea's sovereign rights, saying "rule-breaking is one thing and regulatory transparency is another."

But they question why American banks are "targets of the regulatory crackdown." David Molford, U.S. Embassy commercial attache, visited the Office of Bank Supervision [OBS] last month. He was said to have defended the Bank of America [BOA], which violated won-dollar swap regulations.

Korean Government officials say that it is unfortunate that American banks were caught violating rules.

Such conduct originates from historical and cultural differences in each country's regulatory system, analysts said.

The U.S. regulatory system is based on legal transparency but Korea's puts more accent on moral persuasion, window guidance or an unwritten code of ethics.

As BOA's case illustrates, the central bank has no transparent legal code that prohibits foreign banks from "manipulating" interest rates to save on swap costs with the central bank.

But by intentionally manipulating interest rates, BOA violated the two-party contract, which should be based on good faith. But when one signatory to a specific contract damages the other party, the contract becomes null and void, central bankers said.

They said BOA breached the won-dollar swap contract and financially damaged the central bank, which is actually the "police of the banking market."

After pocketing money from the central bank, many regulators question how in the world the BOA can claim that it did not violate the rules.

It is not a legal matter but one of ethics, they said.

If a bank is engaged in unsound deals, the OBS retains the right to punish it, they added.

But U.S. Government officials and bankers believe that unless there is transparent legal code on the specific won-dollar swap deal, it can handle whatever business that laws and regulations do not prohibit.

In the Seoul meeting, the Treasury Department is likely to call on Korea to make its rules and regulations more transparent.

But Seoul officials may ask the Treasury Department to ask American banks to make greater efforts to understand Korea's unwritten rules and guidelines—which sometimes take precedence over written rules.

It is still unclear when the OBS will take punitive action against three foreign banks—BOA, Nova Scotia Bank of Canada and Chase Manhattan Bank.

BOA and Nova Scotia pocketed central bank money by manipulating won-dollar swap costs. Chase Manhattan was also found to have raked in commissions by illegally arranging for its sister branches in Asia to lend money to Korean firms.

Politicians and local media have closely monitored whether the OBS will bow to U.S. pressure and soften its punishment on the U.S. banks.

Regulators say the violations involving a few foreign commercial banks should not be a factor that affects other wise smooth relations between Korea and foreign countries.

Many non-Japanese bankers question why few Japanese banks are caught violating rules. They question "is it a honeymoon between the regulators and Japanese banks?" They also wonder if "Japanese banks enjoy a special relationship because of their lobby."

But many observers say Japanese bankers are more familiar with Korea's regulatory system which is similar to theirs, which highlights moral persuasion, window guidance and unwritten rules.

Furthermore, Korea's central bank is "notorious" for rejecting lobbies, they noted. When Japanese banks in Seoul violated rules last year, a Japanese Government official secretly visited Korea and met managers of non-Japanese banks here.

His visit was aimed at "scolding the Japanese banks." But when U.S. banks break rules, U.S. government officials defend them.

In addition to the discussion over Korea's regulatory system, U.S. Treasury officials will review what Korea has accomplished in liberalizing its domestic financial market and discuss pending bilateral issues.

Analysts say Paul's visit is linked to President Bush's visit during which he urged Korea to "assume a growing responsibility to lead in strengthening and liberalizing its financial system."

Bush also said, "American businesses are particularly concerned with restrictions in the financial system here which prevents them from trading and investing in the Korean economy."

Despite Bush's rhetoric, analysts say no U.S. Treasury Department official accompanied him to Seoul—a tacit acknowledgement of Korea's unusual financial market-opening measures last year, which even many U.S. bankers here appreciate, analysts said.

Last year, Korea conducted two bilateral financial policy talks under which it expanded market access for U.S. financial services firms.

This does not mean no bilateral issues exist. Solving one problem crates another problem, according to one U.S. diplomat.

Opposition to Uruguay Round Rice Tariffs 'Firm'

SK0801093092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0811 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea remains firm in rejecting the concept of "tariffication without exception" at the Uruguay Round trade talks as it would affect rice, Ambassador to Geneva Pak Su-kil said here Wednesday.

He said, "It is our firm position that rice should not be included in the list of farm products to be subject to tariffication in the talks."

"I have been instructed by the government to reject a proposal drafted by Arthur Dunkel (director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) as long as our position is not taken into consideration," Pak told reporters.

The envoy returned home briefly just days before the trade negotiating committee convenes Jan. 13 in Geneva.

Korea was collaborating with Canada, Japan, Switzerland and Mexico, he said.

Strong opposition from Korea and Japan would be an important factor in the Uruguay Round trade talks on farm products, he said.

Ministry Lowers Annual Rice Production Target

SK0701041892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0111 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 7 (YONHAP)—South Korea has lowered its annual rice production target to 37 million som (5.33 million tons) from 38 million som (5.47 million tons), the level it has sustained since 1981.

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said Tuesday that the change was necessitated by a steady decline in rice consumption, which is projected to fall to 36.5 million tons in 1992, and growing government stockpiles that hit 14.5 million tons at the end of last year.

The amount of land planted with rice is expected to shrink 1.5 percent this year to 1.19 million chongbo (2.92 million acres).

A ministry official predicted that the harvest would be held down by a government decision to stop buying tongil rice, a highly productive but tasteless hybrid variety.

Vice Minister-Level Officials Reshuffled

SK0801022592 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0200 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Today the government carried out a reshuffle of vice minister-level officials.

The government appointed Song Han-ho, vice minister of the Unification Board, as secretary general of the Advisory Council for Peaceful Reunification Policies; Yim Tong-won, director of the Diplomacy-Security Research Institute, as vice minister of the Unification Board; Han Kap-su, vice minister of the Office of Environment, as vice minister of the Economic Planning Board; and Yi Chin, former chief secretary of the prime minister, as vice minister of the Office of Environment.

The government also appointed Yi Chong-kuk, former director of the National Police Headquarters, as governor of South Chungchong Province, and Yi Pan-sok, assistant minister of home affairs, as governor of North Kyongsang Province.

Kwon Yong-kak, former construction minister, was appointed as president of the Land Development Corporation.

Kim Yong-sam Demands Early Presidential Candidacy

SK0801024092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] Ruling party executive chairman Kim Yong-sam yesterday started offensives against his opponents inside the party by going public with his demand for the nomination of the presidential candidate prior to the forthcoming general elections of lawmakers temporarily slated for March.

"It is a sin for the people to leave the issue boiling any longer since it will only cause unnecessary concern among the people," Kim said.

He made the remarks at a meeting of party members from Taejon and Chungchong Provinces at the party's Central Political Training Center in Karak-tong southern Seoul.

The leader of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] also stated that, "To win the parliamentary elections, to make the people feel at ease and to give them courage, hope and vision, the presidential candidate should be picked prior to the general elections."

Kim's offensives came earlier than expected. Kim's action was certainly prompted by the collective resistance by the DLP secretariat staff members belonging to the largest faction against president No Tae-u's reported move to nominate Kim.

Kim is to have talks with President No Tae-u, who concurrently heads the ruling party today or tomorrow to settle the thorny issue. Party sources said No will meet Kim and two other party co-chairmen Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun today.

Kim also said, "The utmost concern of the people is who will become the DLP's presidential candidate. And for political, economic and social stability, the future of politics should be made foreseeable."

He added, "This is the time for the ruling party to make a decision. If it hesitates, it will only lose the opportunity to win the elections."

Kim warned, "We are aboard the same boat and if the boat comes to wreck, we will all drown."

He went on, "With grave determination, we should lead the predictable politics."

He also said that the presidential election is more important than ever in that the national unification may be realized during the tenure of the next president.

DLP Secretariat Resists No's Naming of Kim

SK0801034492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] The operation of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] was crippled yesterday as staff members of its secretariat collectively resisted the reported move by President No Tae-u to name executive chairman Kim Yong-sam as the party's presidential candidate.

About 130 staff members belonging to the Minjong faction, the largest group originating from the former ruling party gathered at the Kwanhun-tong annex building of party headquarters and called for the selection of the presidential nominee through free competition.

"Completely ignoring the opinions of two million party members, a handful of party leaders are attempting to handle the grave issue like back-room horse trading," they said in a resolution.

The secretariat officials demanded a free contest at a party convention, observing that any nominee who fails to win the support of party members cannot win the elections.

Another 50 officials following co-chairman Kim Chong-pil who leads the smallest faction as well as the subpanel chairmen of the DLP's Central Committee had separate meetings to declare their objections to the projected nomination of Kim Yong-sam as the party standard-bearer for the December presidential poll.

Surprised at the protest action by the party functionaries, party elders tried to assuage them through individual contacts throughout the day but to little success.

In the meantime, nine party advisors also huddled together at party headquarters working out ways to put out the factional feud.

They agreed to gather together again after President No's talks with Kim Yong-sam, Kim Chong-pil and the other co-chairman Pak Tae-chun this week.

As factional tension ran high, the ruling party yesterday canceled a conference of the top decision-making body which was originally scheduled for today.

Secretary-general Kim Yun-hwan told reporters, "We do not want to expose the rival factions fighting each other in the central council ahead of the crucial parliamentary elections."

Hyundai Founder Chong Promotes New Party

Plans 'Collective Leadership'

SK0801034592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] The new party, being promoted by business tycoon Chong Chu-yong, will adopt a five-man collective leadership to be formally headed by Yang Sun-chik, former vice president of Kim Tae-chung's now-defunct Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], Chong's staffers said yesterday.

Chong, founder of Hyundai, the nation's largest business group, will remain behind the scenes.

Yang's top deputies are likely to include former foreign minister Choe Kwang-su, former vice foreign minister Yun Ha-chong, and first-term lawmaker Kim Kwang-il, who refused to follow Yi Ki-taek when Yi's Democratic Party merged with Kim Tae-chung's PPD last September.

Chong Chu-yong's son Mong-chun, who broke ties with the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] to join the new party yesterday, is expected to become its senior executive.

Rep. Chong Mong-chun told reporters that he would join the new party along with "new political faces" because he has determined that the DLP is not capable of solving the internal and external tasks facing the nation.

Yi Myong-paek, the just-retired chairman of Hyundai Construction and Engineering Co., a leading subsidiary of the Hyundai Group, will also be given a high post in the party, according to Chong's staffers.

Chong's followers will hold a rally of promoters Friday.

DP Criticizes Chong Move

SK0801093292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0855 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 8 (YONHAP)—The main opposition Democratic Party [DP] criticized Hyundai Group founder Chong Chu-yong for his move to create a new political party Wednesday.

"At a time when concern is rising over a money-controlled election, it is not only undesirable for a conglomerate that built up wealth in a way triggering public denunciation to engage in politics, but it will add to the confusion in elections and politics," party spokesman No Mu-hyun said in a statement.

"Our economy has degenerated like this because immoral businessmen like Chong Chu-yong ruined it in collusion with the power, " Rep. No said, calling on Chong to stop corrupting the political arena and return to the economic field.

No charged Chong with trying to mock the people by arguing for the inception of a concept of land as a public property and for financial transactions to be made in real names.

"Chong has accumulated a huge sum of money by unjust possession of land and has fervently opposed the real-name financial transaction system," he said.

Hyundai Founder Chong Holds News Conference

Notes New Party Goals

SK0801123792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1012 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 8 (YONHAP)—Hyundai Group founder Chong Chu-yong said Wednesday he would not run for office in both the general and presidential elections scheduled for this year.

The new party he was promoting would field 70-80 candidates in the coming parliamentary elections and hopes to win more than 20 seats necessary for forming an independent negotiating group on the floor, Chong said in a press conference at his home here.

Chong said he was preparing to hold a promoters' meeting on Friday and that his specific role in the new party would be decided later in accordance with the opinions of the people to join it.

"The party's monetary support to each candidate will be limited to the minimum electioneering expense allowed by law with a view to helping create a clean election atmosphere and the details of the support will be made public," Chong said.

Chong said the embryonic party would strive to break the alleged collusion between politicians and businesses and aim at earning support from the middle-income bracket and workers.

"In early 1980's, I found some fault with politicians when they arbitrarily merged enterprises (in the early 1980's) and this made me think about becoming a politician myself," Chong said.

Chong said some labor union leaders in the Hyundai Group expressed their willingness to support and participate in the new party.

Touching on his party's political programs, Chong said that real estate speculation and illicit fortune making must be eradicated by introducing the concept of public ownership of land into laws and adopting a system in which financial assets are transacted on the real-name basis.

Chong denied allegations that the new party was merely a "conglomerate (chaebol) party," saying that he gave up all posts in the Hyundai Group.

Reveals Past Leadership Support

SK0801150292 Seoul YONHAP in English 1258 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 8 (YONHAP)—Chong Chu-yong, founder of the Hyundai Group, said Wednesday that he had been donating political funds twice a year directly to top rulers of the country since the days of the Third Republic.

"But I stopped making donations to the incumbent government two years ago as my relations with the government got frozen," Chong reportedly told a press conference at his home.

"I gave 1-4 billion won, 5-6 billion won and 6-10 billion won annually to the rulers during the Third, Fifth and Sixth Republic, respectively," Chong was quoted as saying.

Chong said that he donated 2 billion won and 3 billion won each at Chusok and year-end in the early years of the Sixth Republic.

"I raised the donation to 3 billion won at Chusok because I had a hunch that it might have been rather small," Chong said. "I donated 5 billion won on one occasion and then 10 billion won on the other before stopping it two years ago," he added.

"I believe that the money I gave to the rulers was spent for helping the poor in accordance with my wish," Chong said.

Defense Ministry Said Backpedaling on Reform

SK0701042992 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 6 Jan 92 p 5

[By reporter Kim Chae-hong from the "Reporter's Eye" column: "Backpedaling on the Policy of Making the Military Civilian-Oriented"]

[Text] Toward the end of December last year, the Information Department of the Ministry of National Defense published a booklet entitled "*Voice of People*." The booklet is composed of selected letters from readers on defense issues which were printed in major dailies during 1991.

Son Pung-sam, spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense, said: "We published this booklet as a reference guide for policy-making officials at the ministry."

This information booklet has four sections: letters on defense policy, on conscription, on military education and training, and on military personnel administration and welfare.

In these letters the readers comment on a wide range of issues, ranging from personal opinions, in the form of petitions, to criticism of the government's security policy.

The first ever reference booklet published by the Information Department of the Ministry of National Defense, which has a reputation for being less willing to heed public opinion than other ministries, was worthy of praise in that it was an expression of the Ministry's willingness to heed public opinion.

Regrettably, it has been learned that the booklet "*Voice of People*," not only was not distributed, but was burned after a key department in the Ministry found them to be harmful in terms of security.

Spokesman Son went through a series of restrictions in the wake of this decision and finally left the ministry after a new minister took office following the 29 December cabinet reshuffle.

When Son, the first civilian spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense, who took the job in March last year following the reorganization of the ministry according to what is known as the "818 Plan," resigned, there was a brief murmur inside the ministry that a general in active service would succeed him.

Many observe that there are signs that the ministry has been slackening efforts to make the military establishment civilian-oriented, to open the military establishment to the public, and to improve relations between the military and civilians after a new minister took command of the ministry.

In his first press meeting following his appointment, Minister Choe Se-chang said that "I will concentrate on defending national interests and uplifting the morale in the military." Hearing this, reporters present asked whether he had any specific plan for this and he replied: "No, I have no specific plan."

When he was named minister of national defense, some people who remembered Minister Choe's reputation during his service in the military, feared that his appointment may negatively affect the effort to make the military establishment civilian-oriented and allow the public access to the military. Not only was he deeply involved in the 12 December incident [reference to a military purification movement pushed by former President Chon Tu-hwan], but he also commanded the troops sent into Kwangju to quell the so-called Kwangju Democratization Movement as the commander of the 3d Airborne Brigade. Three brigades, including the one under his command, were brought to public attention during the National Assembly's public hearings in 1988 because of their excessive use of force in quelling the uprising.

I am not going to discuss whether his command of the airborne troops during the Kwangju Democratization Movement was legitimate or not. Nevertheless, there is no denying that he is one of the military personnel whose past has sparked great controversy. It is truly regrettable if Minister Choe, who, out of moral responsibility for his past, should make greater efforts to make the military civilian-oriented, shows any signs of backpedaling in this effort which seems to be on the right track.

Student Representative Chairman Sentenced

SK0701095792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0722 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 7 (YONHAP)—The Seoul District Criminal Court Tuesday sentenced Kim Chong-sik, chairman of the National Alliance of Student Representatives, to six years in prison and suspended his civil rights for four years.

Kim was convicted of endangering the free democratic order and sympathizing with North Korea by leading illegal demonstrations and by letting two university students enter Pyongyang secretly.

The judge denied a defense argument that the National Security Law, under which Kim was charged, became unconstitutional after South and North Korea joined the United Nations and adopted an agreement on reconciliation, non-aggression, exchanges and cooperation.

"North Korea has shown no sign it has stopped trying to communize South Korea and the inter-Korean agreement didn't take effect yet," the judge said in his ruling, indicating that North Korea is still an anti-state regime.

Kim was indicted in July 1991 for organizing illegal gatherings and for sending two students to North Korea.

German Technology Transfers to DPRK Examined

SK0501141092 Seoul SINDONG-A in Korean Dec 91 pp 384-393

[Article by Pak Song-cho, economics professor at Berlin's Liberty University: "Science and Technology Transferred by East Germany to North Korea"]

[Text] Toward the end of 1990, Rice [name as published] Engineering Company, located in Berlin, exported materials necessary for producing nuclear weapons to North Korea. Although it was already known that Germany had exported weapons production technology and facilities to third countries, the fact that it had gone so far as to sell nuclear weapons material to North Korea cannot but be shocking.

Sharp attention must be paid to post-unification Germany's relations with North Korea. North Korea until recently had been receiving a large amount of technology through East Germany, and had also been showing a great deal of interest in exchanges with West Germany prior to unification. It is known that even now, Germany is transferring technology to North Korea. Siemens is improving North Korea's telecommunications facilities, while Benz is transferring automobile technology. Although there are no official diplomatic relations between Germany and North Korea, it is almost certain that such economic exchanges will continue in the future.

Through inductive reasoning, it is possible to infer the level of North Korea's science and technology [S&T] by analyzing the substance of economic and technical exchanges that took place between North Korea and East Germany. In fact, both North Korea's S&T level and policy have been unknown. For ascertaining the actual state of North Korea's S&T, the only possible way was to make inferences through the "blind man feeling an elephant method," relying on those who have visited North Korea or those participants at international seminars or perhaps even analyzing import and export goods.

Democratic reforms in Eastern Europe have now made it possible to obtain a better understanding of North Korea's S&T policy and level. This is because it had been the Eastern European states, particularly East Germany, who had maintained the closest S&T exchanges with North Korea, with East Germany's exchanges with North Korea being second only to the Soviet Unions's. Up until the collapse of the Berlin Wall in November 1989, North Korea sent numerous scientists and students to East Germany. Until the two Germanies were formally unified in October 1990, East Germany had sent technical experts and scholars to North Korea to train North Korean science technicians. It can be considered fortunate that numerous aspects of North Korea's S&T are ascertainable through East Germany.

North Korea's Motives for Approaching East Germany

It is a well-known fact that since World War II, East Germany had been a first class, advanced industrialized country. The states of Saxony and Thuringia in particular have a lasting history in the fields of machine engineering, automotive industry, textile industry, optics, and chemical engineering. Moreover, East Germany had accumulated a level of S&T far above the remainder of the Eastern European countries through its various technical and engineering colleges located in Berlin and scattered throughout the country. In production technology, which excludes military and aerospace technology, East Germany was clearly in the top position in the Communist bloc.

Compared to other Communist bloc countries, East Germany had especially succeeded in establishing industrial-educational cooperation. It had pursued industrial-educational cooperation to levels completely unimaginable in other Communist countries. One of the areas in which the North Korean Government had shown the greatest interest when it comes to academic technical exchanges was how East Germany approached the issue of industrial-educational cooperation.

It also appears that North Korea, through its contacts with East Germany, was hoping to make contact with S&T developed by West Germany. As the exchanges between East and West Germany that commenced in the early-1970s expanded into a full-fledged promotion of scholastic scientific exchanges to include cultural, environmental, and S&T cooperation beginning in 1987, North Korea increased its pursuit of technology transfers as a policy objective in an attempt to utilize this opportunity.

Moreover, West Germany was an important economic partner of North Korea. Of all the Western states, West Germany had the greatest amount of trade with North Korea, and several years ago West Germany's Kullaykuno Humboldt Deutsche [name as published] even constructed the world's largest cement factory in North Korea (a 500-million-deutsche-mark project). North Korea had been appraising its exchanges with East and West Germany in the above light as a prelude to future EC policy, aware of the fact that West Germany would have enjoyed the greatest economic influence within the unified EC of 1992.

A West German economic delegation visited North Korea from 8 to 14 September 1989. Among this delegation (24 high-ranking individuals), were representatives from West Germany's prominent companies, including Siemens, Krupp, MAN [the preceding published in English], and Kullaykuno Humboldt Dench [as transliterated].

North Korea proposed a total of 18 projects (construction materials, textile industry, metallurgy, electronics, mechanical engineering, etc.) to this economic delegation, seeking cooperation. North Korea also proposed a 1-billion-deutsche-mark cement factory construction project. West Germany calculated North Korea's debts payable on demand at around 250 million deutsche marks. North Korea promised to repay this debt by exporting minerals over a six-year period to Germany. West Germany is exporting such goods as factory equipment, construction machinery, automobiles, and textile machinery to North Korea, while North Korea regards West Germany as its most important economic partner in the West following Japan.

Academic Exchanges Prompted by Political Motives

In Communist countries, academic institutes play the role of leaders in the basic sciences. Academy-to-academy academic exchanges between North Korea and East Germany had been the mainstay of technology transfers between the two countries. Academies from both countries—in both the 1964 agreement and in the final agreement concluded in Pyongyang in 1986 following an evaluation of academic exchanges from 1983 to 1985—conducted academic exchanges in fields such as physics, particularly microelectronics; biology; chemistry; computer technology, cybernetics, and infomation processing; mechanics; astronomical physics; and the manufacture of laboratory tooling and instrumentation. Exchanges between the two countries began in 1964, with the emphasis during the 1988-1990 period on microelectronics, automobiles, biology, and energy production in accordance with North Korea's S&T policy.

Scholars of East Germany's academy generally agree that North Korea was unable to arrive at the goals of its 1988-1990 S&T plan. One important reason is said to be because North Korea was unrealistic in how it approached the establishment of its plan and goals, with insufficient equipment being an obstacle to the achievement of its objectives. Moreover, North Korea is facing myriad economic difficulties as the socialist bloc collapses.

North Korea's academy [haksulwon, probably the Kwahakwon, Academy of Sciences] has occupied the most important position in that country's basic applied research, playing the leading role in the execution of state S&T policy. With research centers at universities and in the industrial sector unable to function properly, there is a close relationship between the academy's potential and North Korea's overall capacity for corporate research. Accordingly, since the academy's research has focused on applied research and linking the results of that research to production, it has also come to be in charge of research in areas such as forestry, fisheries, and light industry. The only areas in which it has not obtained jurisdiction is social sciences, medicine, and agriculture, which are directly controlled by the Workers Party of Korea.

The orientation of North Korea's academy applied research (which occupies 60 percent of its research investment) is driven by state ideology (chuche) as well as by North Korea's economic vulnerabilities. The academy's social status had improved even further by the 1990s, as the North Korean Government increased its research investment and improved the level of education.

The research institute of North Korea's academy as described above attempted to use know-how from various countries in order to domestically produce 16-30 bit personal computers. However, the project incurred numerous expenses and ended up merely being a burden to the national economy, since the goals in setting up such a project were established too late. Additionally, because of its lack of energy resources, North Korea devoted considerable efforts into identifying possible alternative energy sources (solar, tidemills, windmills, and atomic reactors). It enthusiastically applied itself to the production of fertilizer and synthetic textiles within the chemistry field while concentrating within the biological field on improving the people's overall standard of living.

To pursue all these objectives, the academy's buildings located in Pyongyang were greatly expanded and a college was established to train young natural scientists. Additional funds were set aside for the purchase of new technology and facilities from abroad.

According to scholars at East Germany's academy, North Korea—armed with chuche ideology—maintained direct relations with only Eastern European states and China, while contact with Western Europe was done through East Germany and contact with Japan was done through scholars of the Chosen Soren. Because of this, North Korea was most active in its relations with East Germany.

Even so, exchanges between the two institutes were conducted primarily out of political motivations rather than out of both countries' mutual interests. This was particularly true in the 1960s, when both East Germany and North Korea worked many angles to gain international recognition. Thus in the beginning both institute's exchanges began out of "solidarity." However, since the actual S&T disparity between the two countries was so large, the opinion that the relationship was for the benefit of both sides gradually disappeared.

Are North Korean Scholars Industrial Spies?

North Korea attempted to over-utilize the relationship between the two institutes above and beyond the scope of the agreement. For example, North Korea attempted to dispatch scholars in the fields of microelectronics, infomation processing, coal, and chemistry—all fields which East Germany regarded as sensitive technologies. However, North Korea's request to send scholars was rejected at the government level. The rare examples of North Korea's success in these efforts occurred when it was able to use the agreement between the two institutes to have North Korean scholars either visit or study East German enterprises. When such incidents became more frequent, East Germany got the impression that North Korean scholars were acting as industrial spies.

Toward the end of the 1970s, East Germany attempted to visit North Korea's mining regions and production facilities with a plan to import borax extracted from North Korea's tumallin [name as published] concrete. However, the import plan came to naught, as North Korean production facilities are regarded as military off-limits areas. Afterwards, East Germany attempted to import high-density beryllium oxide used in producing microelectronics from North Korea's academy; however, for the same reason as given above, this plan never panned out.

East Germany also made contact with North Korea to import high-pressure presses for the production of man-made diamonds. However, the machines produced in North Korea were modelled after those made in Sweden. Even so, East Germany imported one of these machines from the academy, but it completely failed to perform to its stated parameters.

A statistical examination of contacts between the two institutes shows that from 1966, short-term exchanges of scholars were for a period of 20 weeks. From 1986 to 1990, however, this was extended to 80 weeks. This was an act of goodwill extended by East Germany to North Korea, with East Germany lacking any special reason to use this extended term of stay. East Germans only used about 30-40 percent of the 80 weeks.

Even so, North Korea resumed its academic exchanges with the purpose of long-term stays in the 1980s, exchanges about which it had been unenthusiastically passive in the past. North Korea sent young students to East Germany for four-year masters and doctorate programs, with some going as trainees for two years. East Germany's academy invested relatively large sums in such academic and technology transfers.

From 1983 to 1990, 15 North Koreans obtained doctorates. These individuals currently play pivotal roles in North Korea's S&T sector. As soon as the Berlin Wall collapsed on 2 November 1989, the 25 North Korean scholars who had been conducting long-term research at the institute suddenly disappeared from sight toward the end of November. In 1990, even the short-term exchange program was terminated.

Evaluating the exchanges that have taken place until now, one East Germany academy scholar noted the following:

"It was not exchange, but rather a one-way flow in all fields. Even the expenses were one way. The only thing that was beneficial to both sides was the research conducted in North Korea's ecology and botany resources by East Germany's ecology research institute. This was merely research by the botany research institute on an ecological analysis of North Korea's plants."

North Korea's Rail-Centered Transportation System

Academic exchanges between East Germany's Dresden Transportation University and North Korea's Pyongyang College of Railways that had commenced in 1979 continued right up until East Germany ceased to exist. Those at Dresden Transportation University note that legally, this exchange is still valid. Through this academic exchange, Dresden Transportation University produced 24 upper-level North Korean transportation experts (one of whom even received a doctorate). Numerous professors travelled to North Korea and conducted training in various areas related to transportation, including technology, economics, management, and environmental studies.

Dresden Transportation University professors assert, "North Korea's transportation is merely rail transportation." As of 1988, there were at most 1,000 passenger automobiles (Soviet, Swedish, and West German) in North Korea, with only a handful of commercial vehicles (for cargo transportation). Although the commercial vehicles are said to be produced in North Korea, these officials explained that in reality they are merely vehicles produced from imported parts.

North Korea, depending as it does on rail transportation, received technology and know-how from 25 different Soviet transportation colleges. However, since Soviet transportation colleges are specialized by sector, and Dresden Transportation University provides a comprehensive program of transportation engineering and transportation economics, North Korea placed absolute emphasis on its exchanges with Dresden. Professors from Dresden explained that in the transfer of East Germany's know-how and technology, a "Professor Pak Song-uk (not knowing his precise name, I have rendered it in Korean based on the German's pronunciation) of diesel engines" has exercised absolute influence.

The 24 North Korean scholars who were educated at Dresden Transportation University (among them Pak Song-uk; Ho Song-mo; Pae I-chol, the vice minister of rails and transportation; and Yi Hyon-chu, head of the transportation research institute) are all currently active in various positions in North Korea. However, North Korea's technology level is said to be at least 20 years behind East Germany's, according to East German professors. Let's listen to a few more comments made by professors of Dresden University:

—North Korea imported direct-current rail technology from Poland following the war, and afterwards approached Dresden Transportation University in hopes of improving the related technology.

—In the 1970s, North Korea showed great interest in production technology related to transportation. It attempted to introduce production technology from the train factory located in Bautzen, Saxony, and afterwards even tried to import production technology for refrigerator cars, locomotives, and dining cars from the Gorlitz Rail Factory. However, it was unsuccessful in its efforts due to a lack of foreign currency.

—Recently, North Korean technicians approached the VEM-Electric Motor Turum [name as published] Factory in Saxony, showing an interest in the polyphase asynchronous machine engines produced there.

—The level of North Korea's rail transportation technology is extremely low. Its facilities and equipment are even more aged. For example, even though North Korea's trains are Soviet models, in reality, they are similar to pre-World War II East German models. Because the maintenance on its trains and rails is poor, at most its rail transportation is operating at 60 percent capacity.

—There has been virtually no electronics technology introduced in rail transportation. Furthermore, attempts to take a managerial approach to rail transportation in North Korea still lack experience.

—Within North Korea, there are still 400 steam-driven locomotives in operation. Steam locomotives account for 25 percent of North Korea's total transportation, concentrated especially in the East Sea (Wonsan) area.

—From 1951 to 1954, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary exported steam locomotives to North Korea. However, in the early 1980s, North Korea ordered seven diesel locomotives from France. As of 1987, those that had been exported to North Korea were of the ALLO 251F type. It was in 1978 that electric locomotives made their first appearance in North Korea; however, there is no way of knowing whether these are North Korean-produced or Japanese-produced.

Trade Agreement Between North Korea and East Germany

The agreements concluded between East Germany's Foreign Trade Ministry and North Korea's Trade Ministry in 1966 and 1974 remain classified as top secret (VVS). There is no way to know the exact reason for this. Nowhere do these agreements contain anything regarding the export of factory facilities, including state-of-the-art technology or advanced military technology.

One's conjecture is that because the agreement includes a precise delineation of North Korea's method of payment for imports, the North Korean Government may have requested that the contents of the agreement not be made public.

Although it is impossible to know what type of factory facilities were imported by North Korea after the 1966 agreement, one can make a general conjecture of the scale of the factory facilities by looking at the fact that from 1966 to 1970, East Germany's factory facilities exports amounted to merely 10.7 million rubles.

The agreement concluded between East Germany and North Korea in June 1984 on economic, science, and technology cooperation was an important basis for East German industrial technology transfers to North Korea. The contents of this agreement are not as specific as those of the 1988 agreement. However, as a basic framework for S&T cooperation, fields agreed upon include raw materials and metallurgy; machine production, electric motors and electronics; chemical engineering; agriculture; and the spinning industry. The agreement calls for efforts to solidify the projects and method of cooperation in economics, science, and technology committees of both governments. The 1984 agreement was signed by two high-level officials, Billy Stolpe [as transliterated], an East German cabinet minister, and Kang Song-san, North Korea's State Administrative Council prime minister.

The agreement signed between East Germany and North Korea on 11 November 1988 is considered one of the more important agreements in addition to the one concluded in 1984. Exactly one year after this agreement, the Berlin Wall crumbled; two years later, a unified Germany was born. All the various projects begun under this agreement are currently under deliberation by the "North Korean Relations Assessment Committee" of the Federal Germany's Foreign Ministry.

Before this agreement was concluded, North Korea announced its "science and technology development plan" on 13 March 1988 (lasting three years). If the contents of this plan had been carried out, by the end of the three-year plan, North Korea would have made remarkable progress in microelectronics, computers, and photometric [kwangdoche] technology. The foundation for such great ambitions was the agreement concluded in November of that year with East Germany.

The largest problem in exchanges between East Germany and North Korea was North Korea's capability to make payments. Although it is impossible to know exactly the degree of North Korea's foreign debts, the debt roughly totals $3.1 billion owed to Western capitalist countries and $2.8 billion owed to socialist states. A standing assessment committee is currently investigating the extent of North Korean debts to East Germany.

One interesting fact is that the agreement between East Germany and North Korea in 1974 concerning a six-million-ruble debt owed by the North is still classified as a top secret document by the German Foreign Ministry. Judging from this fact, it is evident just how much of a liability North Korea's foreign debts are in its international relations.

One-Way Science and Technology Exchange

A technology cooperation agreement signed between East German and North Korean engineering societies on 21 October 1985 also exists. This agreement is valid for five years and is designed to be automatically extended for another five years if no notification to terminate the agreement is made six months prior to its expiration. As neither country has made any notification concerning the agreement's termination, it essentially is still in effect; however, the agreement must be considered automatically invalidated, should all of East Germany's technology associations be disbanded.

In that same year of 1985, the "Agreement for Technology Transfer Needed for the MiG-21 Jet Fighter and Clutch [yondongki] Maintenance Project" was signed. This cooperation agreement, signed by Yon Hyong-muk, North Korean prime minister, continues to be classified in unified Germany as "most top secret," thus making it impossible to view the document.

Military technology transfers were included when annual trade agreements were signed between the two countries and is thus included in trade plans, which are a central part of commerce. Accordingly, North Korea had to request necessary military service and equipment from Engineer Technology Trade, East Germany's state-managed trading company. Payments were to be made in rubles. One important fact is that a cooperative committee was formed for East Germany's transfer to North Korea of technology needed for maintenance on the MiG-21 fighter and the clutches. This committee met once annually, with six representatives from each side attending.

This agreement was officially effective until 30 December 1990, with extensions of five years according to agreements by both countries. However, since there was no agreement between the two countries, then in this reality this document must be considered as having lost its validity.

Additionally, there is a "Treaty for Technology Transfers Related to the Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy." This treaty was concluded in May 1989 between East Germany's Nuclear and Radioactive Safety Committee and North Korea's Atomic Power Engineering Bureau. This treaty reinforced exchanges of opinions and technology transfers that had been ongoing since 1984. It appears as though the Chernyobl incident substantially influenced this agreement.

As this agreement was valid for five years, it essentially is still valid today; however, this also must be regarded as having lost its validity. According to experts, even though this cooperative agreement was concluded prior to the collapse of East Germany, it had never materialized, having been in the preparatory stages.

In conclusion, North Korean and East German S&T exchanges can be summarized follows. First, there were exchanges of students, researchers, and scholars in the area of basic sciences through cooperative exchanges between academies and universities. Although infrequent, a small amount of joint research was conducted as well. Numerous East German experts were dispatched to North Korea, where they trained North Korean students, technicians, and professors. Key fields were microelectronics, optoelectronics, genetic engineering, sensor technology, transportation (rail) technology and systems, and chemical engineering.

Second, technology transfers accomplished in the fields of production technology and factory facilities were based on trade and economic agreements. Previously, they had centered around technology transfers and personnel training related to factory facilities. Recently, however, North Korea was gradually becoming increasingly active in making approaches in high technology areas (integrated circuit, robotics, etc.). In the production technology field (cement, fertilizer production, vinylon production, automobile production, etc.), North Korea had changed direction, leaning towards technology transfers. East German experts made especially great contributions to North Korea in the area of robotics technology.

Third, there were technology transfers and the training of specialists in special areas. Prime examples of this would be military technology (the MiG-21 maintenance project), the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and modern treatment methods in the field of medicine.

Of course, there is no way of making an accurate final appraisal of the results of S&T transfer between the two countries. However, just judging from the fact that North Korea dreaded a freezing of relations with East Germany and has been working at quickly establishing new cooperative relations with unified Germany, it is possible to get a fair idea of just how important East German technology transfers to North Korea were.

Although the terms "exchange" and "cooperation" were used in describing East German-North Korean relations, in fact the relationship can be viewed as consisting of one-way support by East Germany to North Korea. Experts state, "There was no great profit for East Germany, but rather great expenses."

Specialized North-South Korean Approaches Impossible

In any case, East Germany had officially trained around 650 specialists by November 1989. These experts are now playing pivotal roles in North Korea's S&T policy. Additionally, although exact figures are not known, numerous skilled workers, technicians, and factory managers came to East Germany for both training and reeducation.

In other words, the mainstream of S&T cooperation primarily consisted of the education of experts and the training of skilled workers and managers in East Germany, and education provided by East German specialists in North Korea. A large portion of the expenses for this cooperation was incurred unilaterally by East Germany.

East Germans who know North Korea well unanimously point out the backwardness of North Korea's S&T. They state that North Korea's S&T level is at least 15 years behind that of East Germany, and that comparing North and South Korea, the North will not be able to catch up with the South even within 20 years.

The East German factories, facilities, and technology systems that North Korea imported or was hoping to import are either currently those being privatized by trust companies or those in which neither Western European nor Korean companies have any interest, it is said. Just judging from this fact alone, one can easily deduce the level of North Korean technology.

In this regard, one realizes that "specialized approaches" in the area of North-South Korean S&T exchange are impossible. As far as the mutual S&T enhancement that South and North Korea might be able to provide each other, North Korea is absolutely deficient. Thus, rather than S&T "exchange" between North and South Korea, all that appears possible is one-way S&T transfer from South Korea to North Korea.

The three main pillars of the S&T system in Communist countries have been university research, industry (kombinat) research, and academy research. Within North Korea, there is a total lack of basic science research centered around universities, and even kombinat research is inadequate in the areas of facilities, personnel, and finances. Thus all basic and applied research is concentrated at the academy.

Exchanges between North Korea's monolithic S&T system and South Korea's pluralistic S&T system will certainly be extremely difficult. Considering this point, South Korea must pursue a method by which to reduce the monopoly of North Korea's academy research institute.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Thai Authorities Apologize for Border Incident

BK0501082692 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Thailand has expressed regret and apologized to the Perlis State Government in northern Malaysia for the shooting and intrusion by antismuggling enforcement officers at the border town of Padang Besar last month.

The governor of Songkhla Province, Mr. Prakhong Chunaphon, said to reporters in Kangar that the officers had acted on their own in the four border incidents on the 14th, 16th, 20th, and 22d of last month. He also said the Thai officers at lower level had erred when they referred to the 1922 treaty between the Perlis and Thai Governments on the common use of the Padang Besar Railway Station to legitimize their encroachment and seizure of goods belonging to Malaysian traders.

Mr. Chunaphon said that he had formally instructed Thai officers manning border areas, including the Sadao district office, to stop referring to the obsolete treaty. He said efforts must be made to ensure that such a [word indistinct] will not recur.

This was the second time the Thai authorities conveyed regrets over such incidents and apologized with Perlis.

Singapore

President Wee Hosts Dinner for PRC President

BK0701151492 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] President Wee Kim Wee says if China [words indistinct] fully integrated into the Asia-Pacific will be in everyone's interest. He said its membership in APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] will be significant (?especially) in this region.

President Wee who is hosting a dinner at the Istana [Palace] in honor of the visiting Chinese president, Mr. Yang Shangkun, has called for more economic cooperation. President Wee said trade, industries, and tourism will be the two countries' [words indistinct]. He added that a stable and developing China will make (?greater) stability in the region. He said economic ties between Singapore and China are already well established. Its total trade last year stood at more than four billion dollars [currency not specified]. Economic relations will also be supplemented by other interests and will ensure that our already good bilateral relations would expand and thrive.

President Yang, in his speech, said that China is committed to peace and development in the Asia-Pacific. He said China [words indistinct] to ASEAN's positive role and interests and in international affairs. Like President Wee, Mr. Yang said he believes that closer cooperation between China and ASEAN will help peace and prosperity in the region. He said his country will continue to open its doors wider.

About 70 people are attending the dinner at the Istana dining room.

Cambodia

Khieu Samphan To Attend SNC Meeting 11 Jan

BK0801135892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1341 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Bangkok, Jan 8 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan has assured the Thai Government that he will attend a meeting of Cambodia's reconciliation body in Phnom Penh planned for Saturday, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The assurance came during a meeting here on Wednesday between Khieu Samphan and Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, the officials said.

Asa confirmed this, adding that during the meeting the Khmer Rouge leader had also told him he "was very concerned that UNTAC comes to Cambodia as soon as possible."

UNTAC, or the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, with up to 20,000 personnel—half of them military—is to organise free and fair elections under a U.N.-sponsored October peace accord that ended Cambodia's 13-year civil war. Under the accord, the reconciliation body or Supreme National Council (SNC), which groups all the rival Cambodian factions, is to be headquartered in Phnom Penh.

But the SNC's Khmer Rouge representatives—Khieu Samphan, the faction's nominal leader and Son Sen, its guerrilla force chief—fled the Cambodian capital after an angry crowd attacked them in late November.

The Khmer Rouge are held responsible for the deaths of more than one million people during their bloody 1975-79 rule over Cambodia. The incident delayed the first session of the SNC in Phnom Penh, which finally took place December 30. Khieu Samphan arrived alone in the Cambodian capital just before that meeting and left the following day. Khieu Samphan told Asa he was to travel on Saturday to Phnom Penh and return here the following day, Thai officials said. It was not immediately clear whether Son Sen was also to go to the Cambodian capital. [passage omitted]

UN Meet Cancelled Due to Khmer Rouge Absence

BK0801063692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0624 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 8 (AFP)—The head of the U.N. military mission here said he had cancelled Wednesday's meeting of a military working group because the Khmer Rouge did not send a proper representative.

"It is necessary to have representatives who can give orders and understand what I mean, said Brigadier General Michel Loridon. "If all the generals are not here we cannot do the job correctly."

The weekly meetings will resume next week after the Khmer Rouge send their general Mao Savy, he said.

At the last two meetings of the Joint Military Working Group—which joins generals from the four factions in a body that decides all thing military in Cambodia—the Khmer Rouge had sent Mak Ben, a civilian.

Loridon said he was no longer satisfied in dealing with a civilian, and insisted that Mao Savy attend before the group resumes its work.

The previous meetings have dealt with administrative procedures, but on Wednesday "we were going to speak about mines, which is quite important," the general said.

The problem of thousands of unexploded mines laid during the 13-year Cambodian civil war is one of the most serious obstacles to returning the country rapidly to normality.

Sihanouk, UNSC Envoys Discuss Human Rights

BK0801074692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] On 5 January at Khemarin Pavilion, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, granted an audience to the envoys to Cambodia of the permanent members of the UN Security Council—France, Britain, China, the Russian Federation, and the United States—the representatives of the four conflicting Cambodian parties, and Mr. Ataul Karim, head of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC].

The meeting examined ways to implement the Paris accord, particularly the annex on human rights, according to a request presented by the International Committee of the Red Cross, which demands that all the Cambodian parties cooperate on the release of political and war prisoners.

Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk said he is satisfied with the pledges by all the parties to constantly respect and abide by the accord jointly signed in Paris on 23 October 1991. He added that he firmly believes that the protection of human rights in Cambodia will improve as all the parties have promised.

Sihanouk Receives $300,000 Annually From PRC

BK0801092092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Jan 92

["Clarification" by Norodom Sihanouk, issued in Phnom Penh on 6 January; read by announcer]

[Text] To pay for all my family expenses and those of my cabinet members and secretariat while conducting audiences, working sessions under my chairmanship, luncheons, dinners, and diplomatic receptions that have to be held in my capacity as the head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia; to pay for the purchases of diplomatic mementos, my missions in terms of travel, sojourns abroad and at the United Nations, and so on; and to pay for my contributions to social work and national achievements, I receive financial support from the PRC which has fraternally and unconditionally provided me with aid worth a total of U.S. $300,000 annually.

I want to clarify that in the past, at present, and in the future I have not accepted, do not accept, and will not accept any financial aid from the State of Cambodia or from any other Cambodian faction.

I want to clarify that I do not spend the money of Cambodia or the Cambodian people. As for the foreign donations that I have obtained and will obtain in the future for the motherland, I would like to stress that I have not received and do not receive or manage these funds personally. They have either been managed or distributed by the aid donors or been handed over to the State of Cambodia of His Excellency Hun Sen or to other Cambodian factions depending on their particular cases.

Some Foreign Aid Suspected of Going to Vietnamese

BK0801053192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Station commentary: "Will Italy's Aid to Cambodia Benefit the Cambodian People, or Will the Aid Assist the Vietnamese in Furthering Their War of Aggression and Occupation of Cambodia?"]

[Text] It is reported that the Italian foreign minister has given $25 million in aid to Cambodia for its reconstruction. People as well as the Cambodian populace are extremely happy with all kinds of aid granted to Cambodia and the Cambodian people. However, the people and the Cambodian populace wonder whether the Italian aid will be genuinely beneficial to Cambodia and the Cambodian people or if it will end up in the hands of the Vietnamese—whose forces are still occupying Cambodia—enabling them to sustain their forces in continued invasion and occupation of Cambodia.

The people and the Cambodian populace have raised this question with sadness because aid continues to flow in from various countries—some have given $1 million, $2 million, or $8 million while the others have granted up to $20 million. The people have clearly seen that shortly before and after the conclusion of the Paris accord, the Vietnamese aggressor forces were not very active since they were short of gas for trucks to transport their troops, armaments, and provisions. Nonetheless, since financial aid has begun flowing into Cambodia, the Vietnamese have had money to buy gas and husked rice to sustain their aggressor forces, enabling them to further launch large-, medium-, and small-scale attacks in the country since November 1991.

The people and the Cambodian populace have constantly held that money seems to have been given to assist the Vietnamese in continuing their occupation of Cambodia, while the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] is constantly prevented, due to this or that pretext, such as the lack of money and so on, from coming to Cambodia. All in all, how can the peace accord be implemented if UNTAC's contingents are not gradually dispatched to Cambodia to work in conjunction with the Supreme National Council?

Continued Attacks by Vietnamese Forces Reported

BK0801052992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] To date, despite the existence of the Paris peace accord and the efforts by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk—head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia—and the Cambodian national resistance forces to quickly settle the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia, the Vietnamese aggressors, including the entrenched and hidden Vietnamese forces and the invading Vietnamese settlers, continue to employ all manner of cruel maneuvers to kill the Cambodian people.

In December 1991 alone, the Vietnamese aggressors:

1. Between 13 and 18 December fired many shells—from artillery of various calibers and multiple rocket launchers—on Prey Chhor Kraom, Kang Meas, and Cheung Prey Districts of Kompong Cham Province, destroying many villages and killing many villagers, including pregnant women and children;

2. On 23 December fired many shells from artillery and multiple rocket launchers on Krang Deivai and Srang Communes in Kong Pisei District of Kompong Speu Province, killing many villagers; and

3. Between 27 December 1991 and 2 January 1992 used tanks, artillery, and ground troops to attack our Cambodian national resistance forces in Moung District of Battambang Province. During the onslaughts, the Vietnamese invaders arrested and executed many villagers hiking in the jungle in search of vines and rattan stems.

The aforementioned events sufficiently and clearly show that the cruel Vietnamese aggressors have continued to unceasingly violate human rights in Cambodia and that they want Cambodia never to be independent and peaceful. They only intend to eradicate the Cambodian race once and for all in accordance with their Indochina Federation strategy. As such, the needed, effective measures are that:

1. The Cambodian people from all walks of life must join hands to correctly and meticulously implement the Cambodian peace accord, no matter what;

2. A special envoy of the UN secretary general or the UN undersecretary general must be sent to Cambodia immediately;

3. The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia must join forces with the SNC chaired by Cambodian Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to implement the Cambodian peace accord dated 23 October 1991, specifically to verify the meticulous and correct withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

SRV Disarms Soldiers, Agents in Kompong Thom

BK0801043092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] On 25 December 1991, the Vietnamese aggressors in Kompong Thom Province disarmed all the Cambodian soldiers and agents that they had forced to serve them in the provincial town. The cause of the disarming was that the Vietnamese aggressors clearly realized that:

1. The Cambodian soldiers and agents in general were extremaly furious with them because they caused them and their parents to suffer endlessly;

2. The Cambodian soldiers and agents in general were furious with the Vietnamese aggressors for depriving them of food, not paying their salaries, and forcing them to fight and die in their place every day;

3. The Cambodian people and soldiers do not want them to continue the devastating war in Cambodia; they only want independence, peace, and great national union;

4. At present, they are remotely isolated by the Cambodian people—they are a small island in the middle of the Cambodian sea and are about to collapse; and

5. If the Cambodian soldiers and agents in the town were left carrying arms, the former would certainly rise up and crush them one day.

UN Group Surveys Minefields in Banteay Meanchey

BK0701145292 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1119 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 7 Jan (SPK)—The UN Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) went to Svay Chek, Thmar Puok District, Banteay Meanchey Province in northwest Cambodia on 4 January to get information about the situation and to survey minefields in that region where violent fighting had taken place before the signing of the Paris agreement.

It also visited Preah Net Preah District on the same day.

The seven-man mission arrived in Banteay Meanchey after 2 January and has visited Poipet, Bavel, and other regions of the province.

Oil Exploration Agreement Signed With Japan

BK2912063091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1055 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 27—The Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. (JAPEX) and Nissho Iwai Corp. signed an agreement here Thursday to explore for oil off the Cambodian coast.

Exploration will begin immediately at a cost of one million U.S. dollars over four years, Japanese executives said at a signing ceremony with the Cambodian Government.

"I believe this signing will be a significant event in the developing relations between Cambodia and Japan," said Me Yabe [name as received], executive vice president of JAPEX.

"We at JAPEX are prepared to utilize the most advanced technology...in order to discover petroleum in Cambodia." He said: "I hope we can contribute to the development of the petroleum industry, which will be the foundation for the further economic growth of Cambodia".

The joint project will be named the Cambodia Petroleum Exploration Co. (CAMPEX), with JAPEX having the major share, the officials said.

CAMPEX would exlore a 4,000 square kilometer (1,540 square mile) area and drill at least two exploratory wells in the ocean about 130 kilometers (80 miles) south of the port of Kompong Som.

Negotiations for the block have been going on for four months. Several Japanese firms have already set up operations in Cambodia, especially in the timber and construction industries.

Cambodia has 20 remaining blocks open for foreign exploration, and a second round of bidding is due to begin in January, said Deputy Industry Minister It Prang.

Several American companies, including UNOCAL, CHEVRON and AMOCO, have expressed interest in the bidding, he said. Contracts will be awarded in April.

In Cambodia's first round of bidding six blocks—including one onshore site—have been claimed.

Investors include French, British, Australian, Hungarian, Spanish and Hong Kong companies, each investing 15 million to 30 million dollars in two years projects.

Sihanouk Distributes Indonesian Aid to Factions

BK0201141092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, convened the representatives of all Cambodian factions in a meeting at the Khemarin Pavilion, his residence, on the morning of 2 January during which he distributed U.S.$9,900—a humanitarian donation from the government of the Republic of Indonesia—to all the Cambodian factions. This sum of money was the donation given by the government of the Republic of Indonesia to Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk in addition to the material aid in terms of sarongs, blankets, and ambulances of the [name indistinct] company that was shipped in last November and that the samdech had already shared among the factions.

Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk said that the faction of the State of Cambodia was to receive U.S.$4,950 or 50 percent of the donation while the rest went to the other three factions. He went on to say that the children on both sides in the same great family should kindly manage the aid to the benefit of our poor compatriots. He also said that he had written a message of thanks to His Excellency Suharto, president of Indonesia, for giving humanitarian aid to the impoverished Cambodian people.

Thanks Indonesia for Aid

BK0601070292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] On 2 January, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's chief of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, sent a message of thanks to His Excellency Suharto, president of the Republic of Indonesia, for distributing humanitarian aid to the Cambodian people. The message read:

Your Excellency:

I am honored to have received a sum of 9,900 U.S. dollars as Indonesia's humanitarian aid for Cambodia.

This morning I handed over a sum of 4,950 U.S. dollars to the State of Cambodia side and the other half of the total sum to the other three factions for use in helping the Cambodian people.

On behalf of the Cambodian people, I would like to express profound gratitude to the Republic of Indonesia and your excellency.

Please accept my sincere regards.

Hun Sen Hails Booming Trade With Singapore

BK0401120692 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 4 Jan 92 p 36

[Text] Singapore-Cambodian trade is set to boom, according to Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

In an interview with BUSINESS TIMES on Wednesday, he said this was because Cambodian businessmen depend on Singapore investors for funds to rebuild the economy, and trust the Singaporeans over most other foreigners.

Singapore businessmen contacted yesterday said this was not surprising.

Mr. Edwin Tsai Shou Ming, executive director of Thai Hin Long Trading, said: "I'm not surprised that Cambodians trust Singaporeans more because we tend to be law-abiding and self-regulating, having been conditioned at home to follow a lot of rules and regulations."

According to sources, Singapore was Cambodia's largest trading partner last year. The Trade Development Board does not publish satistics on Singapore's trade with Cambodia.

In the interview, Mr. Hun Sen said: "Our businessmen have very good relations with Singapore businessmen."

He added that the recent lifting of Singapore's ban on investments in Cambodia and Vietnam was "a great encouragement".

"I don't think we should wait until after the elections in 1993 for foreign investments to come in. We should start now," he said.

He said that although peace had not been completely restored in Cambodia, measures to create a hospitable environment for foreign investors had been implemented.

Cambodia has been undergoing free market reforms since 1989, although foreign investments there so far amount to less than U.S. $200 million (S[Singapore] $325 million).

Singapore investments there include the Cambodiana Hotel.

Chea Sim Receives French Parliamentary Delegation

BK0801062492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0436 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 8—National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim said he hoped Cambodia and France would exchange the visit between their respective delegation in the future.

In a meeting Monday with Michel Vauzelle, chairman of the French National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission, Chea Sim said: "We always consider France an old friend of Cambodia."

Chea Sim, who returned here the same day from Thailand for health check, told the French delegation that the visit would further strengthen the friendship, solidarity and cooperation between the two countries.

He also informed his guests of the achievements recorded by the Cambodian people over the past 13 years, including the open-door policy of economics, the foreign investment and the people's belief.

For his part, Mr. Vauzelle pledged to do his best to bring support from the French government for Cambodia's rehabilition.

Bilateral relations between Cambodia and France has been cut off for 16 years since the Khmer Rouge ruled the country in 1975.

France has played an important role in the peace process of the Cambodian problem in which a peace accord had been signed in October 23, 1991.

Sihanouk Receives Italian Foreign Minister 6 Jan

BK0801070892 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0401 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 8 Jan (SPK)—Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, received at Khemarin Pavilion on Monday 6 January Mr. Gianni de Michelis, Italian foreign minister, who was visiting Cambodia.

Present at the audience were Hor Namhong, foreign minister and SNC member; Ieng Mouli, SNC member; and Phi Thach, deputy foreign minister.

Prince Sihanouk briefed his guest about his country's recent history highlighted by the military coup in 1970, Pol Pot's assumption of power in 1975, and the prince's return to Cambodia since 14 November 1991.

The prince also hosted a reception in honor of the Italian delegation.

Minister Leaves Phnom Penh

BK0801072092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Excerpt] On the afternoon of 7 January, His Excellency [H.E.] Gianni de Michelis, foreign minister of Italy, left Phnom Penh for Bangkok after the conclusion of his two-day visit to Cambodia at the invitation of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia.

Seeing the Italian foreign minister off at the airport were H.E. Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia and SNC member, and many other officials from the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Chea Sim Denies Splits in Leadership

BK0501112392 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1054 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 6—National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim on Saturday brushed aside reports of rifts within the Phnom Penh leadership, which he ascribed to "provocation from outside" the government, AFP reported.

"We are in complete accord," Chea Sim said in Bangkok of the Phnom Penh leadership, adding, "reports on frictions are just propaganda. They also amount to provocation from the outside."

He specifically denied the existence of any conflict between himself and Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Chea Sim said "there was no reason whatsoever for splits" within Phnom Penh's ruling party.

The 60-year-old Chea Sim made the remarks as he was leaving for the seaside resort of Phatthaya, where he is to have talks with Thai military chief Suchinda Khraprayun.

He said he had received medical treatment in a military hospital in Bangkok. He did not elaborate, but added, "I feel better now."

Chea Sim, who arrived in Bangkok Wednesday [1 January], is scheduled to return to Phnom Penh from Phatthaya on Monday [6 January].

Anticorruption Protest Reported in Kompong Thom

BK0701014492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] According to a report from Santuk District of Kompong Thom Province, nearly 200 inhabitants held a demonstration on 2 January to condemn corruption committed by the Phnom Penh side in villages, communes, districts, and provinces. The demonstrators also condemned the Vietnamese aggressors and demanded that they leave Kompong Thom Province and Cambodia. The demonstrators also called on the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia to quickly carry out its supervisory role so Cambodia can enjoy peace.

Demonstration Against SNC Meeting Thwarted

BK0501010292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Excerpt] According to reports from our people in Longvek [Udong District, Kompong Speu Province], 300 Vietnamese aggressors hidden there by Vietnamese aggressor leaders, were planning a demonstration to destroy the meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] chaired by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the SNC, held on 30 December 1991.

The reports also say that the reason this criminal plan of the Vietnamese aggressors failed was because the latter realize that Cambodian crowds have carried out all kinds of activities to thwart this dirty and base maneuver. [passage omitted]

Party Paper Calls for Social Tranquillity, Order

BK2712110391 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 26 Dec 91

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "Enhancing Social Order To Effectively Implement the Peace Accord and National Reconciliation Policy in Cambodia"—date not given]

[Text] Cambodian society has suffered with blood and tears in the more than two decades of fratricidal war on account of different ideologies and disunity. After the historic victory on 7 January 1979, and with the national union forces under the intelligent leadership of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], the Cambodian people and motherland and the national culture, tradition, and religion have revived. During the past 13 years, the CPP and the government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] have struggled to surmount all manner of difficulties and obstacles to persistently defend the country and ensure safety for th people. They have also joined hands with the people to rebuild the nation in all fields to counter the destruction caused by the other Cambodian side. Along with this, we have also implemented a national reconciliation policy with goodwill aimed at putting an end to the bloody war among the Cambodians in accordance with the request and aspiration of the people.

With assistance and support from the United Nations and the international community, all the contending Cambodian parties agreed to sign an accord on a global settlement of the Cambodian conflict in Paris on 23 October 1991. The accord, having vital significance of historic character, determines the fate of the Cambodian nation and motherland. As long as national reconciliation is genuinely achieved, the fratricidal war will ultimately end, thereby allowing our beloved Cambodian motherland to thrive as other developed countries of the world and national honor and dignity to be eventually restored.

Over one month since the signing of the accord, the Cambodian people everywhere throughout the country have been happy, with hope to see the ray of peace. Our SOC side has sincerely and scrupulously executed the accord by allowing for the enthusiastic acclaim and total support for the accord during the celebration of the full moon and water festivals and the homecoming welcoming of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk—father of the Cambodian nation and Cambodian head of state—and his consort and family. Yet, in recent days, the climate has become gloomy due to disorder in society and the use of violent actions to destroy and set on fire property and to detain people as hostages for ransom. Conspicuously, on 21 December, armed reactionary elements abetted the Faculty of Medicine's students to stage a full-day demonstration, gravely endangering the demonstrators and the people's policemen, who were duty-bound to maintain social order. The stirring up of disorder and turmoil has not only shattered political and economic stability in Phnom Penh but has also hindered the implementation of the Paris peace accord on Cambodia, which is the vitally important key to resolving the Cambodian problem, thus closing the books on the war in Cambodia. Besides, a number of foreigners who have been prepared to make investments—the source of the nation's development in the future—in our country have hesitated and might pull out their capital as well.

That being the case, all sectors and levels should meticulously study and ponder the impact of the disturbance and strive to upgrade their knowledge in analyzing the situation so as to effectively pursue the implementation in keeping with His Excellency Hun Sen's 21 December 1991 message. This is aimed at correctly ensuring democratic rights without resorting to violence, damaging public and individual property. We should strive to maintain social tranquility and order with the view of implementing the Paris 23 October 1991 peace accord, which constitutes our biggest interest and which determines the fate of our beloved Cambodian nation and motherland.

Correction to Chea Sim's National Day Address

BK0701143192

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Chea Sim Gives National Day Address," published in the 7 January 1992 East Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 45-48:

Page 45, column two, fourth full paragraph, last sentence, make read: ...insecurity. Our people had to travel back to their hometowns in search of their broken, separated families. Despite these difficulties, our people were happy and joyous because they recovered all the.... (clearing indistinct words);

Page 47, column two, first full paragraph, last sentence, make read: ...past 20 years and then promote the reconstruction and development of the motherland.... (clearing indistinct words)

Laos

Army-Rebel Clashes Force Closure of Thai Border

BK0801031992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] Loei—Laotian authorities yesterday closed the border with Loei Province following fighting between government troops and an unidentified group of rebels.

In an official letter dated yesterday, Somchine Intawong, governor of Muang Sanakham in Vientiane, told Loei Governor Sirot Suwannakhin it was necessary for Laos to close the border because of the clashes.

Laotian officials will not allow any Thais to cross the border because they could be in danger.

Mr Somchine said Laos will officially inform Thai authorities when the border can be reopened.

Border sources said a group of about 70 rebels attacked Vientiane forces at Ban Wang camp on the bank of Mekong River in Muang Sanakham, opposite Ban Koke Pai in Pak Chom District, on Sunday night.

Two Laotian troops were reportedly killed and a number seriously injured in fierce fighting that lasted until Monday morning. The camp was razed and Vientiane troops lost one military boat which was sunk.

The sources said about 120 Laotians living close to the camp crossed the border to seek refuge at Wat Ban Koke Pai in Pak Chom District.

Kaysone Phomvihan Continues Visit to Thailand

6-7 Jan Activities Reported

BK0701144692 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Excerpts] According to reports from Thailand, at 1400 yesterday, His Excellency [H.E.] Kaysone Phomvihan and his wife arrived at Don Muang airport and were welcomed by His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and his royal highness the crown prince. [passage omitted]

Yesterday evening, His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and her majesty the queen hosted a banquet in honor of H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and his wife at the Chakkri Throne Hall. The reception was permeated with an atmosphere of profound friendship.

At the reception, his majesty the king proposed a toast to the health and happiness of President Kaysone Phomvihan and his wife. [passage omitted]

After that, H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan proposed a toast to the health of His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and her majesty the queen. He then delivered a speech on the relations between the LPDR and the Kingdom of

Thailand, saying: Your Majesty's words about Laos and Thai-Lao relations are highly valued. The Lao and Thai peoples will remember these words forever. My wife and I would like to express our sincere thanks to both your majesties, all members of the royal family, and the Thai people of all levels for according us a warm and honorable welcome. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to convey my greetings to all the brotherly Thai people. My visit to Thailand this time comes at a time when the Thai people have just celebrated the great 5 December birthday of his majesty the king and are preparing to celebrate the fifth cycle of the great 12 August birthday of her majesty the queen. We see that under the royal patronage of his majesty the king, the Kingdom of Thailand has been developed to make incessant progress in many fields. Both their majesties and members of the royal family are truely the props of the country who are most highly esteemed in the hearts of the Thai people.

H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan stressed that the LPDR and the Kingdom of Thailand are not only close neighbors. We are the two countries closely bound by kindship since ancient times.

Today, at 0910 the LPDR president left the Borom Phiman Throne Hall for the Victory Monument to lay a wreath there.

At 1015, H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan was taken on a tour to the Grand Palace and the Emerald Buddha Temple.

At 1130, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand H.E. Anan Panyarachun paid a courtesy call on the LPDR president at the Borom Phiman Throne Hall.

Undergoes Medical Check-Up in Bangkok

BK0801042192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Jan 92 p A2

[Text] Kaysone Phomvihan, the 71-year-old leader of communist Laos had his health checked at Bangkok's Sirirat general hospital yesterday, the second day of his five-day state visit to Thailand.

His surprise physical examination was not on the official itinerary as it was meant to be kept a secret.

Hospital officials refused to say whether this was a regular check up or to diagnose a particular ailment, but a team of specialists drawn from every medical field took part in it.

The fact that it was the first time that Kaysone had his health record revealed to a non-communist nation marked a break in tradition whereby most prominent communist leaders have their health checked in other, better developed communist countries.

"The old tradition is no longer valid now as almost all Laos' former communist allies either in the former Soviet Union or in Eastern Europe, are in bad shape," said an official familiar with Laotian affairs.

The first Laotian leader under the communist regime to come to Thailand for medical treatment was Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut who had his health examined while visiting Bangkok. Previously the Lao royal family, toppled by the communists in the 1975 revolution, came to Bangkok for medical checks.

It was not known whether Kaysone is suffering any specific illness as another of the traditions of communist countries is that matters concerning the health of their leaders are kept secret. But Kaysone is said to have diabetes and other age-related symptoms including eye problems.

Kaysone was taken to Sirirat hospital yesterday afternoon for a two-hour medical check-up after he received Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun at the Barom Bhiman Throne Hall where he was staying as a guest of His Majesty the King.

The hospital is said to be one of the best in the region for medical technology and has a record for reliable and successful treatments of illnesses of many famous figures in Thailand including members of the Thai royal family.

Earlier in the morning, Kaysone laid a wreath at Victory Monument where he appeared to be in good health. "He could walk energetically," said one official who witnessed the event.

Kaysone later toured the compound of the Royal Temple in a car with renowned archaeologist M.C. Supatharathithit Thisakun his guide, and stopped at specific places that interested him.

But as he was embarking from the plane upon his arrival at Don Muang Military Airport on Monday, Kaysone was seen to be helped to walk by His Majesty the King who greeted him.

Kaysone used to go to East Germany for medical treatment. Soon after he was appointed president at the meeting of People's Supreme Council last August, the veteran leader went to Beijing for herbal and acupuncture treatment for longevity which most communist leaders were believed to have had.

Rumours periodically made the rounds in Vientiane last year that Kaysone, who was delegated administrative power, might step down because of his failing health caused by old age.

Former Defence Minister Khamthai Siphandon replaced him as prime minister, a position which, in an unprecendented move, became less powerful than the president, a post previously regarded as ceremonial.

Anan later in the evening hosted a dinner in honour of Kaysone at Government House where he expressed support for Laos' attempts to join the mainstream development of Southeast Asia in the post Cambodian war era.

Anan said the main trend in the world today was the lessening of political tensions, accompanied by increasing economic interdependence and cooperation among nations.

8 Jan Itinerary Reported

BK0801063192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Yesterday evening His Excellency [H.E.] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun of the Kingdom of Thailand and his wife, M.R. Sotsri Panyarachun, hosted a banquet in honor of H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and his wife at the Santi Maitri building of Government House.

At 0900 today H.E. President Kaysone Phomvihan and wife left the Borom Phiman Throne Hall for the private garden project and the arts and handicrafts center of their majesties in the compound of the Chitlada Palace. They were welcomed and guided to view the garden project and the arts and handicrafts center by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon. Later, at 1045, the LPDR president and wife will leave for the LPDR Embassy to Thailand. At 1500 the LPDR president will be awarded with a political science honorary doctorate degree in a ceremony held at Thammasat University.

At 2000 the LPDR president and wife will host a dinner for His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit at the Sahathai Samakhom Hall in the Grand Palace.

Philippines

Reportage on U.S. Bases Issue, Subic Bay

Manglapus Hopeful for Subic Rescue

HK0801070392 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 8 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus yesterday said the inclusion of the bases referendum in the forthcoming national elections could still save the U.S. naval base in Subic from dismantlement.

Manglapus expressed this hope despite the announced U.S. intention to pull out totally its personnel and dependents in the middle of June this year.

Manglapus said there are new moves prodding the Commission on Elections to include the question of the bases in the national elections.

"There are continuing efforts to keep the idea alive," Manglapus confided in an interview.

The inclusion of the bases question in the ballots would not require additional expenses for the government, Manglapus emphasized.

"Our people will probably have at last their say in this regard," he said on the question of whether to allow continued American military presence in Subic.

While admitting that the U.S. military withdrawal would not affect the country's security, he said the Philippines still needs the stability provided by the U.S. bases if it wants to recover its economic standing in the region some 34 years ago.

Meanwhile, it was learned that under the Bases Conversion Act [BCA], employees of the U.S. military bases will be given the "right of first refusal" to the jobs which will be made available under the BCA.

The BCA, which is still undergoing extensive amendments and has yet to be signed into law, is awaiting another amendment for incorporation.

The Autonomous Region of Greater Olongapo [ARGO] which was originally conceived by Rep. Kate Gordon, is being proposed for incorporation into the BCA.

ARGO seeks to convert the entire Subic baseland, including the improvements there, into one large free port and container port just like the one in Hong Kong with modern ship repair facilities.

U.S.-Initiated Talks Ruled Out

HK0801064692 Quezon City MALAYA in English 8 Jan 92 p 6

[Text] President Aquino said yesterday she does not think the United States will seek a renegotiation of a basing treaty with the new government but does not rule out the possibility of an initiative coming from the next administration.

Workers at Subic Naval Base urged Mrs. Aquino to shelve the proposal to create an Autonomous Region for Greater Olongapo, saying this could delay the passage of the bases conversion bill in Congress.

In a statement responding to a question that the U.S. might try to re-open talks with the next administration for an extension of the stay of its military forces and facilities here, the President said, "I do not expect that the U.S. will want to have talks on any basing treaty during 1992, but I really have no say on what a future administration will do."

Although the current government has already given the U.S. one year to vacate Subic, some presidential aspirants like former agrarian reform secretary Miriam Defensor Santiago have said they would welcome a new treaty if elected.

Mrs. Aquino also declined to comment on Singapore's willingness to accept some of the American personnel who would be moving out of Subic. "We will not comment or interfere in bilateral talks between our allies. I expect that a full briefing on the matter will be made by Singapore's prime minister during the ASEAN meeting and that the matter of ZOPFAN (zone of peace, freedom and neutrality) will be taken up then," she said.

The transfer of a small number of U.S. personnel to Singapore has triggered objections from neighboring Malaysia which reminded Singapore of ASEAN's principle of creating a ZOPFAN.

But a Philippine official, speaking on condition of anonymity, pooh-poohed the planned transfer, saying the U.S. is having problems getting just the space to accommodate its personnel and forces in that small state.

Base workers represented by Roberto Flores of the Federation of Filipino Civilian Employees Association told Mrs. Aquino that the Americans might complete their withdrawal from Subic earlier than one year.

Flores asked the President to help speed up the passage of the bases conversion bill still pending in Congress, and thereby avoid the loss of jobs.

June 1992 Pullout Confirmed

HK0801054092 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0300 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Defense Secretary Renato de Villa has confirmed reports regarding an intention of the United States to withdraw its forces from Subic Naval Base in June this year. De Villa said he has information that the U.S. schools in Subic are due to close down in June in preparation for the pullout of American servicemen's dependents. However, De Villa said the Philippine Government has not been officially informed of the scheduled U.S. withdrawal.

Officials Brief Reporters

HK0801053992 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0230 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Joint news conference by Labor Secretary Ruben Torres and Robert Flores, president of the Filipino Civilian Employees Association at Subic Naval Base, by unidentified reporters at Malacanang Palace on 7 January—recorded; first two paragraphs are introduction by announcer Tanny Rodriguez; italicized passages in English]

[Excerpts] *President Aquino has ordered a fast-tracking of all conversion projects for Subic Naval Base as against the reported accelerated withdrawal of U.S. troops from the base in the next six months. During a joint press briefing by Labor Secretary Ruben Torres and the president of the Filipino Civilian Employees Association in Subic, Robert Flores, after meeting with the president in Malacanang yesterday, Torres said workers in Subic will be jobless soon if base conversion projects are not implemented, while the base lands conversion authority bill is still pending before the Senate.*

At the same time, Flores expressed apprehension over the proposed creation of the Autonomous Region for Greater Olongapo [ARGO], since this may delay the approval of the Base Land Conversion Authority, and considering its political implications. The following is a part of the said press briefing by Labor Secretary Ruben Torres and Mr. Robert Flores, president of the Filipino Civilian Employees Association in Subic Naval Base.

[Begin recording] [Flores] We asked the president if it is possible, in the meantime, to set aside the so-called ARGO as it might derail the approval of the Bases Conversion Authority, because many political units have been protesting the concept of ARGO. One of the protests is the federation was never consulted of the concept of ARGO; another is the political implications that might cause the derailment of the approval of the Bases Conversion Authority.

[Reporter] *Did the president approve your proposal?*

[Flores] *Well, she took into consideration the appeal that we made,* because the livelihood of the workers depends on this. We do not want to delay approval of the Bases Conversion Authority *because of some debate and some protest that may arise as a result of the initiation of the ARGO.* We do not want to give our workers problems now. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [addressing Torres] *Sir, what about the interim body created by the president to oversee the conversion of the bases land?*

[Torres] *They are still on, and, in fact,* the president said the union and the Department of Labor must coordinate thoroughly with that committee so that all the workers' concerns will be taken care of.

[Reporter] How many workers will be employed by the conversion plan?

[Torres] Actually, if all the conversion alternatives envisioned by the Legislative-Executive Bases Council [LEBC] are effected, the current number of workers will not even suffice. Actually, apart from the special facilities that we have now, industrial states will also rise within the vicinity of the Subic area. *So, more or less, you are talking of 100,000 as envisioned by the LEBC.* [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Initially, have there been investors who have expressed interests in this?

[Torres] *Yes. Actually, in ship repair we have this American firm from Norfolk, Virginia, who has contacted already the Legislative-Executive Bases Council, is interested in operating the ship repair facility.* [passage omitted]

[Reporter] *What about other companies from Asia?*

[Torres] *Yes, there are Japanese firms. The Keppel Corporation has also offered to operate the ship repair facility. Actually, there are three companies.* The third is the Japanese shipping company that will fabricate ship repair parts. [end recording]

That was part of a joint press briefing by Labor Secretary Ruben Torres and Robert Flores, president of the Filipino base workers' union in Subic Naval Base, after meeting with President Aquino in Malacanang yesterday, and discussing about issues concerning the fate of the Filipino base workers rights after the reported accelerated withdrawal of U.S. troops from the base in the next six months.

Meanwhile, President Aquino, according to Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon, has been informed by U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Frank Wisner that most of the activities at Subic Naval Base will be discontinued by the U.S. Government, just days after the Philippine Government issued a one-year notice of termination to the U.S. Government. Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said small units at Subic will be transferred to Singapore based on the statement of Wisner.

The president, meanwhile, said despite this development, the Philippine Government has not changed its position on the withdrawal plans for the U.S. troops from Subic, and that as far as her administration is concerned the one year withdrawal would still apply. Changes in the position of the Philippine Government would lie in the hands of the next administration, whether they are keen on holding talks again with the U.S. Government. At the same time, the president said she is expecting that a full briefing on transfer of U.S. troops and facilities in Singapore from the Philippines will be made by the Singaporean minister during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations meeting this month. And the matter of Zone, Peace, Freedom, and Neutrality, would also be taken up.

Singapore Accused of Damaging Regional Security

HK0801054192 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 8 Jan 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Singapore Undermines Regional Security"]

[Text] By every indication, the U.S. Navy will be withdrawing quickly from Subic Naval Base over the next few months.

By June, it is expected that the bulk of dependents and non-essential personnel shall have been removed from the base. The schedule is dictated as much by the American academic calendar (summer is the best time for families to relocate) as by the official desire to dispel suspicion that the U.S. will renegotiate Subic's lease with the new administration.

The U.S. has made arrangements with Singapore for relocating the logistics team now based in Subic. Singapore, in turn, is negotiating with the Philippines for the right to station 10 of its F-16 fighter aircraft in Palawan in exchange for building a gunnery range similar to Crow Valley at Clark. This makes for a curious merry-go-round of military forces.

Singapore has been maintaining an air force far larger than could be accommodated in that cramped city-state. There is simply no space in the island for decently training combat pilots. The foreign policies of her closest neighbors, Indonesia and Malaysia, along with Singapore's own strategic scruples with her other ASEAN partners, makes the Philippines the only country where she could base part of her air force.

The presence of the U.S. Air Force at Clark was extremely convenient for Singapore. Part of the Singaporean air force was stationed there and nearly all of the island's combat pilots trained at Crow Valley. It was due to their consideration that the Singaporeans found it wise to set aside regional solidarity as she noisily pressured the Philippines to grant the U.S. extended leases for Clark and Subic.

Pinatubo, of course, closed down Clark ahead of the termination of the Military Bases Agreement. The impending closure of the U.S. facility at Subic shall deny the Singaporeans the only means to continue maintaining an oversized armed forces under the auspices of the superpower.

Even as Singapore courts us in order to acquire basing rights in Palawan, she continues to embarrass us diplomatically by offering to host a token unit of the U.S. Navy that is to be expelled from Subic. Given space limitations, any U.S. force stationed in Singapore can only be symbolic. It can only symbolize the obsessiveness with which the Singaporeans want to demonstrate close alliance with a superpower.

While Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand maintained a polite and detached attitude during the excruciating negotiations between the U.S. and the Philippines, Singapore spared no effort in playing the role of America's junior partner in the region. While the other members of the ASEAN hewed closely to the vision of establishing a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in the region, the Singaporeans fussed about the dislocation of their armed forces from U.S. bases in the Philippines and invited military units of the superpower to nest in their cramped city-state.

Singapore's neglect of basic diplomatic politesse and the requirements of regionalism can only be the product of a strange paranoia that has afflicted the island's political leadership.

Obsessed with the island's smallness and interpreting this as a major vulnerability, Singapore's leaders have traditionally reached out to the western powers in order to achieve a sense of security. Perceiving itself a pariah amidst a large "Malay sea," Singapore has looked at her neighbors with quiet distrust. Her diplomacy has become seriously afflicted by a ghetto mentality and Singapore tries to cure her baseless insecurities by cultivating a strong military force even as she does not have the space to have them properly based at home.

Singapore's actuations through the entire length of the Philippine bases debate can only be a measure of her discomfort with the regional community of nations. She has, as a consequence of her cultivated fears, undermined the vision of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality assiduously pursued by her cloest neighbors.

Singapore is at once physically in the region and politically out of it. She shall for a long time function as a stumbling block in the collective effort to build a meaningful Southeast Asian community of free, prosperous and non-aligned states. And she shall, with little embarrassment, play out her self-assigned role as America's little footsoldier in this part of the world.

Diplomatic Ties to North Korea 'Soon'

HK0301025692 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 3 Jan 92 p 8

[Text] The Philippines will soon establish diplomatic relations with North Korea after the Pyongyang government agreed to a UN-sponsored inspection of its nuclear facilities, officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

The opening of North Korea's nuclear facilities to inspection by an international group was one of two conditions set by Manila before it establishes full diplomatic ties with Pyongyang.

The other condition is for North Korea to stop giving material and financial support to the local communist movement.

North Korean Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon earlier assured Manila that Pyongyang was not giving any aid to the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Manila and Pyongyang were set to exchange diplomatic representatives before the end of 1991 but Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus reconsidered the government's plan following North Korea's refusal to open its nuclear facilities to Western inspectors.

The Philippines and Brunei are the only two countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that have no diplomatic relations with Pyongyang.

Aquino Accepts Rebel Offer To Help Police Polls

HK0401033892 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] President Aquino accepted the offer of the rebel soldiers to help keep the 11 May election clean, orderly, and peaceful.

Nevertheless, the president said that the rebel soldiers must coordinate with the Commission on Election [Comelec] and other poll-watching groups. This was the reaction of Mrs. Aquino on the offer made by Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Red Kapunan, that they will help the government in keeping the election peaceful and honest.

Kapunan said that he was able to meet with Comelec Commissioner Heidi Yorac and discuss the possible help of the Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance in keeping the election in some areas orderly and peaceful.

Following this, the president dismissed the proposal of other influential leaders of the country by not endorsing any presidential candidates for the 11 May election. Mrs. Aquino said she will announce her endorsement on her birthday on 25 January.

Muslim Group Threatens To Destroy Power Facilities

HK0801061692 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] A big Muslim group in Iligan is allegedly planning to destroy National Power Corporation [Napocor] facilities if the Save Lake Lanao Movement [SLLM] softens its position on the opening of the Agus 1 hydroelectric power plant. Napocor officials have confirmed the plan and are planning to seek military protection so that they can open the hydroelectric plant. The alliance is reportedly comprised of the Moro National Liberation Front, Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Islamic Youth Preachers From the Table Group [as heard], and the Islamic Traditionalists. The group is said to be suspicious that some SLLM officials have been bribed in relation to the opening of the hydroelectric power plant.

Insurgents Consolidate Political Gains

HK0201050992 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 1 Jan 92 p 9

[By Manny Mogato; first of two parts]

[Text] Four years after President Aquino unsheathed her "sword of war" to crush the stubborn communist insurgents, her military appeared to be slow in meeting their self-imposed deadline to bring the insurgency level down to a mere law-enforcement problem from a national-security concern.

With barely six months left in her administration, the armed forces remained locked in a fierce and violent "war of attrition" in the countryside.

The rebels are still in control of over 3,000 communities in more than 60 provinces nationwide. The guerillas are still active in about 49 rebel fronts, which are also serving as "alternative governments."

Occasionally, the rebels would still spring a "blitzkrieg" on an isolated detachment or on an unsuspecting convoy.

The military should have been into its final phases of seizing strategic control over the communist insurgents, probably 80% to 75% into their timeable of reducing by more than 50% what used to be the rebels' highest level of strength, resources and political influence.

Although the military boasted of enjoying a clear advantage over the guerillas in a number of parameters which are purely tactical, like combat engagement, casualty ratio and firearms exchanges, the insurgents have remained steadfast, capitalizing on their advantage on the political front.

Take the case of the military's campaign in the Marag Valley in the Cordilleras, an intelligence report citing seized rebel documents showed that "the insurgents in the area have made gains in terms of politicalization, mobilization and propaganda work... despite on-going counterinsurgency operations."

The intelligence report indicated that the sustained tactical operations employed by the armed forces on the insurgents in Marag Valley have failed to shake the rebels' hold on the people in the area.

"The establishment of a provisional revolutionary government (PRG) in Marag," the same intelligence report said, "indicates that the insurgents have strong mass support despite ongoing Coin (counterinsurgency) operations."

"Furthermore, the insurgents are using their controlled non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to set up legitimate socioeconomic projects to strengthen their mass mobilization."

The rebels, the military observed, have been cleverly playing their cards right in the Marag Valley campaign, maximizing their advantage on the political front to offset their tactical losses.

Such a situation is also happening elsewhere. In areas where the movements of the guerillas have been greatly hampered by the military's active presence and popular support, the rebels have been mobilizing their political forces "to do the combat."

One unique approach was the use of media to expand influence and control. In southern Tagalog and in the eastern Visayas regions, the rebels have began operating their own "clandestine" radio stations to advance their cause.

The use of clandestine radio would indicate two things. First, the rebels have attained a considerable strength and have amassed adequate resources to broadcast their propaganda.

Secondly, it could be the other way around; the rebels' movement have been constricted that they have to resort to radio to reach their followers and to continue expanding their political control despite their limited movements.

General Lisandro Abadia, the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, realizing the potent power of the media, especially the radio in reaching out to more people in the remote areas, has ordered his subordinates to match the rebels' propaganda blitz.

"I want you to use the media," he ordered his commanders in one of his provincial sorties last month. "You buy air time so we can tell the people in the far-flung areas that communism has failed and would never work in this country."

He defended his actions as "merely informing the people to be wary of communist deception."

"This is public information, this is not propaganda," he told THE CHRONICLE. "We don't sell half-truths nor lies, we will only inform them of what is really happening around the world and it is now the time for them to open their eyes and reject the communist ideology, which has proven to be a failure in the Soviet Union and the Eastern Europe."

Military Begins New Counterinsurgency Operation

HK0201050692 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 2 Jan 92 p 6

[By Manny Mogato; second and final part]

[Text] Literally, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Lisandro Abadia explained, the military would bombard the rebels' lairs in the mountains with leaflets and "komiks [comic books]" explaining the bankruptcy of the communist ideology and the reasons why this system did not work well in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

His new strategy, which is now called "Lambat-Bitag [Net Trap] II," would be an intensified civilian-military operations (CMO) complemented by active intelligence and tactical operations.

He said the first "Lambat-Bitag," which the military credited for decimating the rebels' ranks, resources and territories, was heavy on tactical engagements that both intelligence and CMO or psychological operations warfare were used only as supporting thrust [graf as published].

Graphically illustrating the strategy in a triangle, both CMO and intelligence operations were represented by the two corners at the base of the triangle, supporting a third corner, tactical operations.

The triangle was inverted to give both tactical and CMO operations equal importance with the third corner, intelligence, giving support to both tactical and CMO operations.

CMO operations do not end in civic-action projects like free medical and dental services, road and artesian well building in the barrios, but liaisoning with local officials, civic leaders, NGOs [non-government organization] and the Church to gain more popular support for the military's campaign to end the insurgency problem.

Networking and gathering support from the civilian government and the public, in general, are key CMO functions as well as public information to increase public awareness, understanding and finally, support for the military mission.

This is where the military has failed since implementing the "Lambat-Bitag" in 1988. The strategy has worked tactically as shown by statistics:

Rebel manpower declined by 9% this year, from 17,270 at end-Dec. 1990 to only 15,670 at end-Dec. 1991.

The number of rebel firearms similarly dropped by 9%, from 11,700 to 10,620.

The number of insurgency-affected barangay also went down by 22%, from 4,841 to 3,780 villages.

And finally, the number of guerilla fronts decreased by at least eight priority fronts, from 57 to 49.

But these statistics proved unimpressive with the political gains achieved by the rebels in their continued presence in Marag Valley, the productive areas in the Davao provinces, the rice granary of Panay island and their traditional strongholds in Samar, Bicol and northern Mindanao.

No amount of tactical operations seemed to shake them from these areas without considerable political support. But "Lambat-Bitag II" assures that the rebels are defeated both in tactical and political fronts this time.

Thailand

Anan on U.S. Military Agreement With Singapore

BK0801135592 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun feels that the presence of a U.S. military base in Southeast Asia is still necessary. He said the move of the U.S. base in the Philippines to Singapore has to do with an agreement between the United States and Singapore and does not concern the Thai Government.

[Begin recording] [Anan in progress] ...it does not concern the Thai Government.

[Unidentified correspondent] Indonesia and Malaysia already expressed their opposition to the move.

[Anan] Let us not pay too much attention to press reports. We do not know if they actually expressed opposition. I, however, believe that it was a transfer agreement in principle. Only 200 men are involved, which is a small number.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Anan] Not yet. We will probably discuss this issue at the summit in the latter part of this month. [end recording]

GATT Plan's Effect on Thai Software Viewed

BK0801041992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Jan 92 p B1

[By Oranut Anusaksathian]

[Text] The draft agreement on intellectual property rights in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks, if adopted, will force Thailand to protect computer softwares for the lifetimes of programmers plus 50 years thereafter, much longer than it currently protects for.

This would also amount to all existing computer softwares developed by the original firms enjoying automatic and retroactive rights over the products. Copycats would face legal action in that instance.

Popular programmes such as Lotus and dBase could not be copied, adapted and rented without authorization from the original owners or fair compensation.

The Thai Juridical Council ruled that computer softwares, though protected under the Copyrights Act, fall under the field of scientific works and thus are protected for 50 years only.

Yangyong Phuangrat, chief Thai negotiator on intellectual property protection in the GATT talks, said Thailand was satisfied with the final draft agreement on intellectual property protection negotiated under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Although domestic industries and the public might have to pay higher prices for copyrighted works, internationally-accepted rules on intellectual property protection would ensure that the pressure on Thailand to have to talk unilaterally with major trading partners, as is the case now, would be minimized, he said.

Moreover, the draft agreement, as it stands now, also allows Thailand to resort to the compulsory licensing provision in broad cases, including the abuse of rights, one of the main areas of concern in the amendment of the controversial patent act.

If Thailand agreed to the draft agreement on intellectual property, which is part of the whole package to free world trade in 15 sectors including agriculture, textiles and services, promising industries such as chemicals, automobile and electronic parts would witness higher costs for protected intellectual input.

At the same time, software houses would have to pay the price for reproduction. Retail prices of softwares sold locally might rise as a result.

Moreover, companies currently enjoying free of charge the rights to adapt and rent existing computer programmes for sale must also offer fair compensation to developers, if their actions are deemed to damage the original programmers' sale.

Most importantly, better and longer protection terms must also be granted to copyrighted softwares. Protection under the copyright law also means that the works do not require registration to be effective. Recognition of the rights of software programmers will thus be automatic like film makers, writers and singers.

But if the draft agreement was to be adopted, computer softwares will be considered literary works, instead of scientific works as is the case in Thailand, and its protection will be extended to the whole lifetime of developers plus 50 years, thereafter.

The United States has been a strong supporter of this principle. Although Thailand has tried hard, together with its allies which include Argentina, Brazil and China, to counter this, it failed.

If the draft agreement is adopted, countries will have to amend their domestic laws to comply with the agreement within four years from Jan 1, 1993.

Ties With Three Indochinese States at 'Best'

BK0801042592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Jan 92 p A8

[Editorial: "Most Favourable Condition in Thai-Indochinese Ties"]

[Text] Thailand's relations with the three Indochinese states are at their all time best. This is due partly to the end of the Cold War, to the political settlement in Cambodia as well as to the significant change in Thai foreign policy since the Chatchai administration begand to put more emphasis on improving ties with Indochina.

Lao President Kaysone Phomvihan arrived in Bangkok on Monday on a state visit to Thailand. Last month, in a meeting of the Thai-Lao border committee, another agreement on border security cooperation was signed in Bangkok. During the meeting Army Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and Lao Defence Minister Lt Gen Choummali Sai-Ngason openly stressed their agreement to bar all undesirable elements from using the Thai-Lao border areas for subversive activities against either country.

Both sides also reiterated then common policy of leaving to local authorities the settlement of local issues not relating to any boundary question. And the construction of the Thai-Lao friendship bridge linking Nong Khai with Vientiane formally began last November.

Thailand and Vietnam too are warming to each other, especially since the visit of Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Ket to Thailand last October. Gen Suchinda is now on a three-day visit to Vietnam where he reassured Vietnamese leaders that the Thai military would from now on stop describing Vietnamese military strength as a "threat" to Thailand.

Gen Suchinda also invited Vietnamese military leaders to visit Thailand and go "anywhere" in the country and look at "anything" they want to see, including the upcoming annual Thai-US military exercise, because Thailand has nothing to hide from Vietnam. The Thai army chief quipped that Thai soldiers would very much prefer staying home with their families than going to war. This seems also true in the case of Vietnamese soldiers after so many years wasted on the battlefield. When military leaders on both sides share this down-to-earth view, mutual confidence in each other's peaceful intentions will increase.

Another means of strengthening mutual confidence is through increased trade and economic cooperation for mutual benefit. This foreign policy in recent years and when Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun visits Vietnam next week he will likely stress economic cooperation further, and perhaps highlight it with a bilateral agreement on a fishing joint venture in which concrete mutual benefit can be realized. [sentence as received]

Following the political settlement in the decade-old Cambodian conflict, Thailand's attention to Cambodia has shifted to the repatriation of the estimated 350,000 displaced Cambodians living along the Thai-Cambodian border and to trade with the war-torn country. Thailand is now on friendly terms with all the four Cambodian factions on the Supreme National Council, the ruling body of Cambodia.

The Thai military may even play a major role in the UN's sponsored massive operation to remove tens of thousands of deadly mines in the border areas to clear safe passages for the displaced Cambodians to return home.

For the first time since the end of World War II we can say that Thailand has no enemies in Indochina.

With foresight and compassion Thailand should continue to nurture this highly favourable situation for the benefit of Thailand and its three Indochinese neighbours who are relatively less-developed economically.

Thailand is also in a position to serve as a production base and operations springboard for foreign investors doing business with Indochina.

Thailand's unselfish policy in dealing with Indochina will certainly be rewarded in the long run.

Anan on Laos' Desire To Integrate With ASEAN

BK0801034992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun last night expressed his support for Vientiane's desire to be integrated into the Southeast Asian community.

Mr Anan, in a speech delivered at a dinner in honour of visiting Laotian President Kaysone Phomvihan at Government House, also praised the landlocked communist country for adopting an economic liberalisation policy in recent years.

Referring to Laos' wish to accede to the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and to its market-oriented reforms, Mr Anan said they will "enable the Lao People's Democratic Republic to play a constructive role in the community of nations."

Accession to the 1976 treaty, sponsored by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, is the initial step to joining the regional grouping—now made up of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Laos and its communist ally Vietnam expressed their wish to adhere to the treaty last year.

The Prime Minister said the main trend in the world today is a lessening of political tension, accompanied by increasing economic interdependence and cooperation between nations.

"It is clear that every country in the region must now cooperate even more in the post-Cambodian war period to bring about the well-being and prosperity of our countries and peoples," he said.

Since the October 23 signing of Cambodia's peace treaty, Thailand has adopted a policy of expanding economic and trade ties in Indochina. It has given priority to improving relations with Laos following the settlement of a bloody border conflict in 1988 and the Laotian leadership's moves towards economic liberalisation.

President Kaysone arrived on Monday for a state visit as a guest of His Majesty the King. The 71-year-old Laotian leader, who is reportedly suffering from diabetes, also had medical checkups at Sirirat Hospital.

In his return speech at the dinner last night, Mr Kaysone thanked Prime Minister Anan for his warm welcome.

Vietnam

Thai Military Commander Suchinda Continues Visit

Meets With Le Duc Anh

BK0801024192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Jan 92 p A2

[Text] Hanoi—Vietnam's second-ranking Politburo member, Le Duc Anh, in a reciprocal gesture yesterday invited Thai Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun to return for a visit in which he could go "any place, anywhere."

A Thai official, who attended the closed-door session between Anh and Suchinda, said the Vietnamese leader told Suchinda that arrangements would be made for him to go anywhere, any place in Vietnam on his next visit.

Anh's assurance came after Vietnam rejected Suchinda's request to visit the strategic Cam Ranh Bay naval base. It was also a response to Suchinda's repeated invitation to the Vietnamese military leaders to come to Thailand and observe its military activities.

Suchinda, the source said, asked Vietnam for assistance in locating a residence for Thailand's military attache. He also said the Thai Military Bank would like to open a branch in Hanoi, according to the source.

Earlier in the day, Suchinda laid a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and visited the house of the late Vietnamese leader.

During the meeting, Anh expressed gratitude to the Thais for providing assistance and sanctuary for Vietnamese revolutionaries fighting the French occupation in the 1940s.

The source said the two leaders also touched upon the "usual" bilateral problems, such as fishing, the issue of alleged Thai support of anti-Vietnamese groups and Vietnamese living in northeastern Thailand.

Anh stressed that Vietnam hopes the ethnic Vietnamese living in Thailand will become an integral part of Thai society and law-abiding Thais, according to the source.

In return, Suchinda said that Thailand is considering giving the Vietnamese Thai citizenship as they wish.

At one point, Suchinda suggested that both countries should establish a direct line of communication to exchange information to avoid conflict and misunderstanding in the future. The Vietnamese side agreed in principle.

The two sides did not sign any concrete security agreements during Suchinda's visit.

The Thai army chief ended the second day of his trip with a courtesy call on Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet at the Presidential Palace.

Kiet welcomed Suchinda's visit and said it would strengthen Thai-Vietnamese relations and economic cooperation. Kiet visited Bangkok in October on his ASEAN tour.

None of the state-owned newspapers yesterday published news of Suchinda's discussions with the Vietnamese leaders.

Suchinda left yesterday for Ho Chi Minh City, where he would spend a day before arriving in Bangkok today.

In Ho Chi Minh City he will exchange views with Nguyen Vinh Nghiep, chairman of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh.

Lt Gen Bui Tanh Van, Seventh Regional commander, will be Suchinda's host in the commercial port city.

—Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun will arrive in Hanoi tomorrow for a one-day stop-over to finalize Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's itinerary during his trip to Vietnam.

He will also discuss the contents of the joint communique to be issued at the end of Anan's visit, which is scheduled for Jan 15 to 17.

Anan will sign a fishing cooperation agreement and a protocol to amend the 1978 economic and technical cooperation accord.

Suchinda on Talks, SRV Ties

BK0801023992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Jan 92 p A2

[Text] Hanoi—Army Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun has dropped the word "threat" when describing Vietnam's armed forces, but says its military capabilities are still "stronger" than other countries in Southeast Asia.

"Frankly speaking, to ask for a defence budget, one has to give a comparative military strength of other countries, so I have to say Vietnam has so-and-so military capabilities," he told THE NATION in an interview yesterday.

Suchinda, who is also supreme commander, said his visit to Vietnam will make the leaders here more confident about Thailand's sincere desire to strengthen mutual friendship and economic cooperation.

"Recently, when the Thai foreign minister (Asa Sarasin) was in Hanoi, he was saying one thing about Vietnam, and I was saying another. It could mislead the Vietnamese into thinking that the Thai military was not ready to develop relations with Vietnam," he said.

Suchinda was referring to comments he made in an interview with the BBC Thai language programme during his visit to London. He said Vietnam's military capability remained a threat to Thailand's security.

His comment was quickly rebutted by Asa in Hanoi who said that Vietnam is not a threat but was a good friend, as the world has shifted from confrontation to cooperation. Asa was visiting Hanoi to boost Thai-Vietnamese relations.

Asked whether his visit had changed his views about Vietnam, Suchinda simply answered that Vietnam wants to develop its economy and improve the standard of living of its people.

During his talks with top Vietnamese leaders including Le Duc Anh, the number two ranking Politburo member, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, Defence Minister Doan Khue and Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces Senior Lt Gen Dao Dinh Luyen, Suchinda attempted to ease Vietnam's longstanding fear of Thailand's motives, especially the alleged Thai support of anti-Vietnam resistance groups.

"I have invited them to visit Thailand and to go 'anyplace, anywhere' in Thailand including any point along the Thai border," he said. "Thailand has no secrets to hide."

Suchinda said the Vietnamese leaders are interested in following up his invitation. "They must have confidence and they can come and look at it any time," he said.

During his meeting on Monday with Luyen, Suchinda said Vietnam can be an observer to the annual military exercise between Thailand and the United States, codenamed Cobra Gold. At one point, he even said Vietnam could take part in Cobra Gold.

Suchinda said he told Anh that Thailand would like a direct channel of communication to discuss measures to prevent further misunderstanding or conflict. "In case the Vietnamese side arrests Thai fishermen, we can inquire about it and vice versa—if Vietnam has problems with us they can just call," he said. Thailand has such direct contact with Malaysia and Burma.

Throughout the interview, Suchinda played down security issues and emphasized the importance of more economic cooperation between the two countries. "It is imperative that the two countries must have more economic cooperation than before. In the world today, each region has been trying to do just that," he said.

Suchinda said Thailand does not share a common border with Vietnam so there is no security problem between the two countries.

"As long as Laos and Cambodia remain independent countries without any interference from foreign countries, Thailand and Vietnam will not have a problem," he cautioned.

"Only when Vietnam interferes with Laos and Cambodia, will there be problems," he said.

On the question of Vietnamese living in Thailand's northeastern reigon, the army chief said as long as Vietnam does not interfere with the community, there was no cause for alarm. "We would like to see them integrate into Thai society," he said.

He also reiterated this point during discussions with Anh who raised the contentious issue. Suchinda said Anh also supported the policy of having the Vietnamese in Thailand assimilate into the local community.

Having said that, he added that the Thai Government has turned down a Vietnamese request to set up a consular office in the northeast.

"I think with a consular (office) in the northeast, it will make the Vietnamese become more 'Vietnamese' instead of assimilating into the Thai community," he said.

Vietnam can set up a consular office any place outside the northeast, he added. About 40,000-50,000 Vietnamese are living in this region of Thailand. Apart from third generation Thai-Vietnamese, under Thai law they are not recognized as Thai citizens.

Vietnam last year gave Thailand permission to open a consular office in Ho Chi Minh City. Last week, the Cabinet approved the plan and budget to open the office by mid-1992.

It was Suchinda's second visit to Hanoi. He accompanied former army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut here in 1989. Having visited Hanoi for a longer time this year, he has noticed changes in overall economic developments in Vietnam. "Last time I was here, I saw only one hotel. Now, there are plenty of them," he said.

Joint Leaders Said Satisfied

BK0801025192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] Thai and Vietnamese military leaders emerged satisfied with what they called the "successful outcome of the first real dialogue" they have had in more than a decade.

Thai Ambassador to Vietnam Suraphong Chaiyanam said Thai and Vietnamese leaders held frank talks bringing closer the relationship between the two armies.

Armed Forces Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun assured all Vietnamese leaders he met during his two-day visit to Hanoi that such dialogue to strengthen ties between the two armies and bilateral relations in the broader context will continue.

The Thai armed forces no longer hold any suspicion concerning Vietnam and what minor problems remain can be resolved through consultation, Gen Suchinda was quoted by the Ambassador as telling Gen Le Duc Anh, the number two in the Communist Party's Politburo.

The two military leaders talked for an hour yesterday. Gen Suchinda also had a 45-minute meeting with Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet yesterday.

On Monday, the Supreme Commander met Defence Minister Doan Khue and the two armed forces leaders had two hours of plenary meetings.

Ambassador Suraphong told the BANGKOK POST yesterday that Gen Le Duc Anh, as well as other Vietnamese leaders who met the Thai military delegation, is "satisfied" with Gen Suchinda's explanations over different matters.

The conversation touched on the two issues of mutual suspicion—Thai support for anti-Vietnamese movements and Vietnamese support for subversive acts by Vietnamese refugees in northeasten Thailand.

Gen Suchinda told Le Duc Anh that Thailand has never and will not support any reactionary movements of any country, especially those opposing neighbouring countries, be it Laos or Vietnam.

"Gen Suchinda stressed that the reactionary forces were matters of bygone days, dating back to the Vietnam War period. But now things have changed with Thailand and Vietnam entering a new era and the Thai Army has no policy of supporting reactionary movements," the Ambassador said.

The senior figure in the Politburo also told Gen Suchinda that Vietnam's policy is to make Vietnamese refugees in Thailand appreciative of Thai assistance and to play their part in enhancing good relations between the two countries.

During various sessions with the senior leaders, Gen Suchinda also sought to assure Vietnam of the importance of economic development to both Thailand and Vietnam and said the two countries should expand direct trade and economic cooperation.

The Thai Army, just like the Thai people, want to see progress and prosperity in Vietnam, which will benefit Thailand and the region as a whole, Gen Suchinda told the Vietnamese leaders.

Gen Suchinda said he believed that Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun will seek to further economic cooperation, building on the result of Premier Vo Van Kiet's visit to Thailand last October.

Premier Anan will pay an official visit to Vietnam from January 15 to 17.

Gen Suchinda also lobbied for Vietnam's agreement to operate joint fishery ventures, saying this mode of cooperation will resolve the problems of illegal fishing.

He cited the success in the case of the Thai-Lao joint venture in land transport, which Laos was finally satisfied with after years of what it described as unfair treatment with land transport monopolised by the Express Transport Organisation.

Fisheries, one complicated problem in bilateral relations with Vietnam, could be resolved through joint ventures, Gen Suchinda said.

A joint fisheries agreement will be signed during Premier Anan's visit to Vietnam, Ambassador Suraphong said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun is due in Hanoi today to prepare for the Prime Minister's trip.

Friendship Association Meets in Hanoi

BK0701155792 Hanoi VNA in English 1508 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 7—The permanent committee of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association met here today to review its activities in 1991 and work out the plan of action in 1992.

The participants unanimously notely noted that in 1991 in spite great chages happening in the world including the former Soviet Union, the association still carried out effective activities, contributing to preserving and strengthening the solidarity, friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and the countries in the former Soviet Union.

They reaffirmed that the association would continue its activities in new forms conformable to the new situation, establish relations with the association of friendship with Vietnam newly founded in Moscow and is ready to establish relations with the associations, organizations and individuals in the Commonwealth of Independent States, the three Baltic states and the Republic of Georgia desirous of maintaining relations of friendship, solidarity and cooperation with Vietnam.

Do Muoi Receives International Delegation

BK0701160592 Hanoi VNA in English 1514 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 7—Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, received here yesterday the visiting delegation of the International "Village-SOS" led by Helmut Kutin, chairman of the organization.

Present at the reception was Tran Dinh Hoan, minister of labour, war invalids and social affairs.

Mr. Helmut Kutin reported to the Vietnamse leader on the plan of International "Village-SOS" to help build five SOS villages for widows and orphans in Vietnam three of which located in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Da Lat City have been put into operation. Another village will be inaugurated on Jan. 9 in Vinh, capital of Nghe An province, and the fifth is being built in Da Nang province.

He said that his organization would help Vietnam build more SOS villages.

General Secretary Do Muoi expressed proforund gratitude of the Vietnamese people to International Village-SOS for its generous assistance.

He said the Vietnamese party, government and people are concentrating all efforts on socioeconomic development aimed at stabilizing and improving the people's living conditions, saying special attention to the lot of war invalids and families of fallen combatants and war victims as well as to the care for the health of the people, especially mothers and children.

He pointed out that "all for the people" is the goal of action and the essence of all policies of the Vietnamese party and state, and to achieve this objective the Vietnamese people earnestly desire peace and want to be a friend of all countries and nations in the world.

Draft Amendments to Constitution, Part 2

BK0601103192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 31 Dec 91

["Chapters three, four, and five" of draft amendments to 1980 Constitution]

[Text] **Revised Chapter Three**

Culture, Education, Science and Technology

Article 30, revised parts of Articles 37 and 38: The SRV State builds a modern national culture to serve the people; develops the people's capability and creativity; succeeds and develops precious values of the Vietnamese civilization as well as Ho Chi Minh's thought, ethics, style, and the fine tradition of the Vietnamese community. It absorbs the best of world culture, opposes decadent and reactionary culture and concept, and combats superstitions.

Article 31, revised Article 37: The state creates conditions for citizens to comprehensively develop their ethical, academic, physical, and artistic education; enhances the citizens' consciousness and responsibility to live and work in accordance with the Constitution and law; builds happy families with a spirit of patriotism, love for socialism, and a spirit of authentic internationalism.

Article 32, revised Article 44: Literature and art contribute to fostering the dignity and lofty feelings of the Vietnamese people. Encouragement is given to the development of various forms of culture of the state, collectives, and individuals as well as to promoting literary and artistic activities of the masses, thus creating conditions for writers and artists to produce works of high ideological and artistic values to let the people enjoy these literary and artistic works. Efforts will be made to expand cultural and artistic exchanges with countries in the world.

Article 33, revised Article 45: Work related to information, propaganda, the press, radio, television, publications, libraries, cinema, and other mass media facilities will be developed. Cultural, information, and propaganda activities which are detrimental to the national interests and undermining the dignity, morals, and the fine lifestyle of the Vietnamese people will be strictly prohibited.

Article 34, revised Article 46: Historical and revolutionary relics, cultural heritages, and public works of art and scenic sites shall be restored, protected, and developed. Importance shall be attached to the work of preservation and to museums.

Article 35, revised Article 40: Vietnam's education system respects the people's dignity and develops the capability of each individual by combining study with practice and education with productive labor and by developing close ties between the school and society. The objective of education is to enhance the people's intellectual standard, strengthen manpower, foster men of talent to meet requirements of the national construction and defense, and actively and creatively train laborers engaging in various occupations who have pride in their nation and the impetus to surge forward to contribute to making the people wealthy and the nation strong.

Article 36, revised Article 41: The state uniformly manages the national education system in terms of curriculum, contents, and programs; and formulates regulations on recruitment and training of teachers. The national education system is composed of state-run schools, private schools, and other training institutions. The state provides capital for state-run schools while encouraging other sources of investment to develop the general education system and to help private schools and other special education institutions. The state implements the policy on developing education at the mountain regions and areas of ethnic minorities. Various mass organizations, especially the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, social organizations, families, and society, together with the schools have the responsibility to educate youth, teenagers, and children.

Article 37, part of revised Article 43: The state formulates and implements a national policy on science and technology, harmoniously develops the various branches of science—natural and social sciences and technology—to devise scientific theories to support the formulation of policies, lines, and laws; improves technology; develops the productive forces; enhances managerial skills to guarantee both quality and speed for economic growth; and builds modern science and technology.

Article 38, part of revised Article 43: The state invests in, encourages, and provides funds for scientific development through the use of different sources of capital, with first priority being given to key areas of technology. It trains and makes rational use of the contingent of highly professional scientists, technicians, and skilled workers. It broadens relations and cooperation in science and technology with the outside world, creates conditions for scientists to devise inventions and make contributions, adopts a policy of diversifying forms of organization and scientific research work, links scientific research with socioeconomic development needs, and closely combines scientific research and training with production and business operations.

Article 39, part of revised Article 47: The state has sole responsibility for the protection of the people's health, mobilizes and organizes all social forces in building and developing preventive medicine, develops and combines modern and traditional medical and pharmaceutical practices, and creates conditions for citizens to have access to medical care.

Article 40, part of revised Article 47: The state, society, families, and citizens have the duty to provide protection and care to mothers and children and to implement the family planning program.

Article 41, part of revised Article 48: Vietnamese sports and physical culture, with a national, scientific, and popular character, shall be developed. The state has sole responsibility for the management of sports and physical culture, defines a compulsory physical education system in schools, encourages and helps with the development of the various forms of sports and physical culture among the people on a voluntary basis, creates necessary conditions for continually broadening the various forms of popular sports and physical culture, fosters sports talents, and broadens sports ties with the outside world.

Article 42, revised Article 49: Tourism is promoted and developed. Tourist activities are encouraged and broadened both at home and abroad.

Revised Chapter Four

Defense of the Socialist Fatherland

Article 43, revised Article 51: The people's armed forces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV], absolutely loyal to the fatherland and the people, have the duty to be prepared to fight and defend the socialist regime and the gains of the revolution; the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of the nation; national security and social order and safety; and the freedom, happiness, and peaceful labor of the people as well as to join the entire people in building the country.

Article 44, revised Article 50: The SRV maintains an all-people national defense system and a regular, increasingly modern, and well-trained revolutionary people's army and builds a powerful reservist and militia and self-defense force to firmly defend the fatherland and the socialist regime, combining national construction with national defense, the strength of the people's Armed Forces with that of the entire people, and the strength of the traditions of national unity in the antiforeign aggression struggle with that of the socialist regime.

Article 45, new: A regular, increasingly modern, and well-trained people's public security force relying on the people must be built to act as the hardcore in the mass movement to safeguard national security, maintain social order and safety, guarantee conditions for political stability and national development, protect the people's right of mastership and their lives and property and socialist property, and prevent and curb criminal activities.

Article 46, revised Article 52: The state stimulates the people's patriotism and revolutionary heroism, enforces compulsory military service, builds the defense industry, combines national defense with economic development and vice versa, looks after the material and spiritual living conditions of cadres and soldiers, builds powerful people's armed forces, and constantly augments the nation's defense potential.

All state bodies, social and economic organizations, and citizens must fulfill their obligations with regard to national defense and security as provided by law.

Revised Chapter Five

Fundamental Rights and Obligations of Citizens

Article 47, revised Article 53: Citizens of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam are persons who hold Vietnamese citizenship.

Article 48, new: In the SRV, all human rights are respected and protected.

Article 49, revised Article 54: The rights of citzens are inseparable from their obligations. The state shall guarantee all citzens' rights. Citizens shall fulfill their obligations toward the state and society. The rights and obligations of citizens are defined by the Constitution and the law.

Article 50, former Article 55, unchanged: All citizens are equal before the law.

Article 51, revised Article 56: Citizens have the right to take part in managing the affairs of the state and society as stipulated by law. Citizens have the right to participate in discussing all those common issues of the entire country or of a locality and to bring up their suggestions with state organs or express their views through their votes whenever there is a referendum held by the state.

Article 52, revised Article 57: All citizens, regardless of their ethnic origin, sex, social status, regilion, cultural attainment, profession, and term of residence, have the right to vote upon reaching the age of eighteen, and to stand for election to the National Assembly and the people's councils upon attaining the age of twenty-one, with the exception of the insane or people deprived of such rights by law or by the court of law.

Article 53, revised Article 58: Work is the right, obligation, and privilege of citizens.

Citizens have the right to work and to take the initiative in creating employment.

The state and society shall devise plans to create more and more jobs for the laboring people.

The state shall promulgate a system of labor safety and shall have a labor policy toward women and children.

Article 54, revised Article 59: The state shall fix working time, a system of rest and recreation, and various social insurance systems for state employees and salaried persons.

Article 55, new: Citizens have the right to freely go about their business in accordance with the law.

Article 56, revised Article 27: Citzens have the right to own their legal income, savings, houses, means of activities and means of production, capital or other assets in business or in other economic organizations.

The state shall protect citizens' right to designate inheritants or to inherit assets.

Article 57, revised Article 60: Education is a right and obligation of citizens.

The state shall enforce compulsory general education and other measures aimed at eradicating illiteracy.

Citizens have the right to pursue their general education and to learn a profession under various forms.

Prodigious students shall be encouraged by the state and society to develop their talents.

The state shall adopt policies to exempt or reduce tuition fees and grant scholarships.

The state and society shall create conditions for handicapped children to pursue general education and learn appropriate professions.

Article 58, revised Article 72: Citizens have the right to undertake scientific and technical research, to invent technical innovations, rationalize production, create cultural and art works, or participate in other cultural activities.

The state shall protect copywrite, industrial patents, and the right to transfer technologies.

Article 59, revised Article 61: Citizens have the right to health care.

The state shall devise policies on health insurance, on hospital fees, and on exemption of reduction of hospital fees.

Citizens have the obligation to comply with all regulations on prophylactic and public sanitation.

The state shall strictly forbid the use of narcotics and shall devise a policy to force drug addicts to give up their habits and and shall provide treatment for a number of dangerous social diseases.

Article 60, revised Article 62: The state shall implement a plan for housing construction, and encourage organizations and individuals to build houses or deal in housing construction in accordance with plans and the law.

The right of house rentees and house leasers shall be protected by the law.

Article 61, revised Article 63: Women and men have equal rights in all respects—in political, economic, cultural, social, and family life.

The state and society are responsible for raising the knowledge of women in all aspects and for constantly developing their role in society.

Women and men shall receive equal pay for equal work. Women are entitled to pre- and post-natal paid leave as stipulated by the law.

The state and society shall concern themselves with developing maternity houses, pediatrics, day-care centers, kindergartens, and other welfare facilities to create conditions for women to produce, work, study, rest, and fulfill their duty as mothers.

Article 62, revised Article 64: Families are a cell of society.

The state shall protect marriage and families.

As defined by law, citizens of both sexes when reaching the required age are allowed to get married in accordance with the principles of voluntariness, progressiveness, monogamy, and equality between husband and wife.

Parents have an obligation to raise and educate their children to become citzens useful to society. Children have an obligation to respect and care for their parents and grandparents.

The state and society do not accept discrimination among children.

Draft Amendments to Constitution, Part 3

BK0701090792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 1 Jan 92

["Articles 63 through 93" of draft amendments to 1980 Constitution]

[Text] Article 63, Revised Article 65: The state, society and family look after, protect, care for and educate children.

Article 64, Revised Article 66: The state and society create conditions for youths to study, work and entertain themselves and to develop their physical force and intelligence; educate youths on ethics, national traditions, sense of citizenship and socialist ideal; and encourage youths to take the lead in creative labor and national defense.

Article 65, last paragraph of revised Article 71: Citizens are free to move around and live in the country, and to go abroad and return home as stipulated by law.

Article 66, revised Article 67: Citizens have the rights to inform and to be informed, enjoy the freedom of speech and the press, hold meetings, establish associations and demonstrate. Law stipulates the use of these rights by citizens.

Article 67, revised Article 68: Citizens have the freedom of faith to follow or not to follow a religion. Pagodas, temples, churches, sacred houses, and other worship areas of religions are protected by the state. Religions are equal before the law. No one can violate the freedom of faith and religion or exploit faith and religion to act at variance with the law and state policies.

Article 68, revised Articles 69 and 70: Citizens are inviolable corporeally, and their life, health, honor and dignity are protected by law. No one can be arrested without a decision of the people's court or a decision or an approval of the organ of people's control. Any arrest or detention must be made in accordance with law. Any form of oppressive investigation, physical punishment, and offense to honor and human dignity is strictly forbidden.

New Article 69: No one can be considered guilty and be punished until a verdict of the court has come into effect legally. People who have been arrested, detained, prosecuted and tried illegally are entitled to material indemnities and to a rehabilitation of public esteem. People who act against the law and cause losses for others must be dealt with in accordance with the law.

Article 70, revised Article 71: Citizens' domiciles are inviolable. No one can on his own will enter others' residence without the permission of the occupants, except when such an entry is authorized by law. Citizens' mail, telephone calls, and telegrams are ensured for safety and privacy. Checks of domiciles and unsealing, seizing, and checking of citizen mail and telegrams must be carried out by authorized persons as stipulated by law.

Article 71, revised Article 74: Wounded and sick soldiers, and survivors of fallen heroes are entitled to the various state policies of privileges. Wounded soldiers may be given conditions for recovering their work capability, for holding jobs suitable to their health conditions and for having a stabilized livelihood. Those people and families who have earned merit for the country are rewarded and cared for. Old and infirm people and orphans without any support are assisted by the state and society.

Article 72, revised Article 73: Citizens have the right to lodge complaints and denunciations with authorized state agencies concerning illegal works of state agencies, socioeconomic organizations, units of the people's armed forces or any individual of those agencies, organizations and units. Complaints and denunciations must be considered and settled by state agencies within the time prescribed by law. All behaviors violating citizens' rights and legal interests must be promptly remedied and dealt with sternly and strictly. Victims are entitled to material indemnities and rehabilition in public esteem as stipulated by law. It is strictly forbidden to take revenge against complainants and denouncers, and to abuse the rights to complain and denounce to accuse, slander, and injure others.

Article 73, revised Article 75: The state protects the legitimate interests of overseas Vietnamese residents and creates conditions for them to maintain close relations with their families and country and to help build the country.

Article 74, Article 76 kept unchanged: Citizens must be loyal to the country. Betraying the country is the most serious crime against the nation.

Article 75, Article 77 kept unchanged: Defending the socialist fatherland is the citizens' sacred duty and noble right. Citizens are dutybound to perform their military duty and participate in building the all-people national defense.

Article 76, Revised Article 79: Citizens are dutybound to respect and protect socialist assets.

Article 77, Revised Article 78: Citizens are dutybound to abide by the Constitution and law, assure national security and social order and public safety, preserve national secrets, and observe labor discipline and public life activity rules.

Article 78, Article 80 unchanged: Citizens have the obligation to pay taxes and engage in communal work as defined by law.

Article 79, new: Citizens have the obligation to implement all the stipulations of the state on family planning.

Article 80, new: Foreigners and stateless people taking up legal residence in Vietnam shall comply with Vietnam's constitution and laws and shall have their lives, property, and other legitimate rights protected by the state in accordance with Vietnamese law.

Article 81, unchanged: Foreigners who are persecuted for struggling for freedom and national independence, for socialism, democracy, and peace, or for engaging in scientific pursuits, are granted the right of asylum by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Revised Chapter Six

The National Assembly.

Revised Article 82: The National Assembly is the highest representative body of the people, the highest organ of state authority of the Socialsit Republic of Vietnam.

The National Assembly is the only body vested with constitutional and legislative authority.

The National Assembly decides on fundamental domestic and foreign policies, on national socioeconomic development tasks, on the main principles governing the organization and functioning of the state apparatus and the social relations and activities of citizens.

The National Assembly exercises the right of supreme supervision over all activities of the state.

Revised article 83: The National Assembly has the following duties and powers:

1. To draw up and amend the Constitution, make and amend laws, and decide on law-building programs.

2. To exercise the right of supreme supervision over the observance of the Constitution, the laws, and National Assembly resolutions; and to examine reports on activities of the Council of State, of the government, of the Supreme People's Court, and of the chief procurator of the People's Organ of Control.

3. To decide on state plans and on national programs for socioeconomic development.

4. To decide on the national financial and monetary policies; to decide on the state budget estimates and state budget distributions; to ratify the final balance of the state budget; and to institute, revise, or repeal taxes.

5. To decide on the state's nationalities policy.

6. To define the organization of the National Assembly, and the duties and powers of the Council of State, of the head of the Council of State, of various governmental organizations, people's courts, people's organs of control, and local administrations.

7. To elect or release from duty the chairman and other members of the Council of State, the chairman and vice chairman of the National Assembly, the prime minister, the chief judge of the Supreme People's Court, and the chief procurator of the People's Organ of Control; to ratify the appointment of deputy prime ministers, cabinet ministers, and other members of the government at the proposal of the prime minister.

8. To decide on the setting up or the dissolution of ministries or other governmental organs; on the merger, division, setting up, or readjustment of the territorial boundaries of various provinces and municipalities directly under the central authority; and on the setting up or the dissolution of special administrative-economic units.

9. To abrogate those documents of the Council of States and of the chairman of the Council of States, of the government and the prime minister which are at variance with the Constitution, the law, and National Assembly resolutions.

10. To decide on general amnesties.

11. To define ranks and positions in the armed forces, ranks and positions in the diplomatic sector, and other ranks and positions of the state; to define orders, medals, and other state honors.

12. To decide on matters of war and peace and define the state of emergency and other special measures needed for ensuring national defense and national security.

13. To decide on fundamental foreign policies and periodically examine reports of the state on its foreign affairs; to ratify or abrogate the signing or the honoring of international treaties at the proposal of the chairman of the Council of State.

14. To decide on the holding of referendums.

Revised Article 84: The term of each legislature is five years. A new National Assembly shall be elected two months before the term of office of the incumbent National Assembly expires. Electoral procedures and the number of deputies shall be defined by law.

Under special circumstances, the National Assembly may, if approved by at least two third of the deputies, decide to shorten or prolong its term of office and take necessary measures to ensure its functioning.

Revised Article 85: The National Assembly shall meet thrice a year at the convocation of the Council of State.

The Council of State may convene extraordinary sessions of the National Assembly by its own decision or at the request of the prime minister of the government or of at least one-third of the total number of National Assembly deputies.

A new legislature of the National Assembly must be convened not later than two months after its election.

The first session of each legislature of the National Assembly shall be opened by the chairman of the Council of State. The chairman of the Council of State shall preside over the sessions until the chairman of the new National Assembly is elected.

Revised Article 86: The chairman of the Council of State, the Council of State, the chairman of the National Assembly, the National Defense and Security Council, the Nationalities Council, the various committees of the National Assembly, the government, the Supreme People's Court, the chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, and the Vietnam Fatherland Front and its member organizations, have the right to submit draft laws to the National Assembly.

National Assembly deputies have the right to submit suggestions concerning law and draft laws to the National Assembly.

Procedures for submitting suggestions concerning law and draft laws to the National Assembly shall be determined by law.

Revised Article 87: The adoption of bills and resolutions of the National Assembly require a supporting vote by more than half of the total number of its deputies, except for cases stipulated in Article 84 or proposed constitutional amendments, as provided for in Article 147.

Laws must be promulgated not later than 15 days after their adoption by the National Assembly.

Article 88, unchanged: The National Assembly shall elect a commission to verify the credentials of deputies to the National Assembly and, basing itself on the reports of that commission, decide whether to accept the credentials of deputies to the National Assembly.

Revised Article 89: The National Assembly shall elect its chairman and vice chairman. The chairman of the National Assembly has the following duties and powers:

1. Preside over its meetings and ensure the observance of the internal regulations of these meetings.

2. Keep in touch with the deputies and ensure the observance of the regulations governing deputies.

3. Conduct the National Assembly's external communications.

4. Certify the laws and resolutions adopted by the National Assembly.

The chairman of the National Assembly is responsible for reporting his work to the National Assembly.

The vice chairman of the National Assembly shall assist the chairman in the discharge of these duties and powers.

Revised Article 90: The National Assembly shall elect the National Defense and Security Council, including its chairman—who is the chairman of the Council of State—vice chairmen, secretary, and members.

The National Defense and Security Council shall discuss with and make proposals to the chairman of the Council of State on the task of commanding the armed forces. It shall also discuss with and make proposals to the Council of State on the declaration of state of war when the country encounters aggression and state of emergency throughout the country or in each locality, as well as on the general mobilization or limited mobilization and other special measures to ensure national defense and security.

The National Defense and Security Council is responsible for reporting to the National Assembly and Council of State on matters relating to national defense and security under the jurisdiction of the National Assembly and Council of State, which have the right to consider these matters.

Revised Article 91: The National Assembly shall elect the Council of nationalities, including its chairman, vice chairmen, secretary, and members.

The Council of Nationalities shall study and make proposals on questions of nationalities to the National Assembly. It shall exercise the right to supervise the implementation of policies on nationalities, programs, and plans for socioeconomic development in the mountainous regions and areas inhabited by the people of ethnic minority groups.

Consultations with the Council of Nationalities must be sought before the enforcement of any decision by the government on policies concerning nationalities.

The chairman of the Council of Nationalities may attend meetings of the Government to discuss the implementation of policies on nationalities.

The Council of Nationalities is also vested with other duties and powers like various committees of the National Assembly, as provided in Article 92.

Members of the Council of Nationalities work under a system in which each of them takes responsibility for a particular field of activity to be determined by law.

Revised Article 92: The National Assembly shall set up its committees.

The committees study, examine, and make proposals on laws, draft laws, and other bills or reports entrusted to them by the National Assembly or chairman of the National Assembly. They make proposals to the National Assembly on matters within their respective jurisdictions in accordance with the responsibilities delegated to them by the National Assembly or chairman of the National Assembly.

They also submit to the National Assembly their views on issues concerning organizational work and personnel under the jurisdiction of the National Assembly—which has the right to consider and decide on these matters—and exercise the right to supervision within the scope of their duties and powers to be determined by law.

Each committee of the National Assembly includes its chairman, vice chairmen, secretary, and members. Members of the committee work under a system in which each of them takes responsibility for a particular field of activity.

When necessary, the National Assembly may set up interim committees for certain tasks.

Revised Article 93: The National Defense and Security Council, the Council of nationalities, and National Assembly committees have the right to request members of the government, the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court, the chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, and other state cadres and officials concerned to present or provide them with information on essential matters. The persons to whom such requests are made have a responsibility to respond.

All state agencies are duty-bound to study and answer the proposals made by the National Defense and Security Council, the Council of Nationalities, and National Assembly committees.

Australia

Keating Urges Europe To Support GATT Package

BK0801084492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0728 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Canberra, Jan 8 (AFP)—Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating has written to European leaders seeking their support for bringing the Uruguay Round of talks under the GATT to a successful close, his office said Wednesday.

A statement from Keating's office said the letters were sent on Monday to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, British Prime Minister John Major and the Chairman of the European Community (EC) member states, Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Cavaco Silva.

Keating said in the letters that the views of the EC would be critical to successfully concluding the round under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The implication of the letters is that the onus is on the community not to reject the package prepared by GATT chief Arthur Dunkel unless it wants to take the blame for the collapse of the five-year trade talks.

Cabinet Supports GATT's 'Dunkel Plan'

BK0801062392 Hong Kong AFP in English 0756 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Canberra, Jan 7 (AFP)—Hopes of a negotiated settlement of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks improved Tuesday as Australia gave its backing to the "Dunkel plan" aimed at slashing U.S. and European farm export subsidies.

Trade and Overseas Development Minister John Kerin said in a statement that the Cabinet had agreed the plan provided an acceptable basis for concluding the Uruguay Round.

The plan, proposed by GATT Director-General Arthur Dunkel, was seen here as a "take-it-or-leave-it" ultimatum to try to finalise protracted international talks on freeing up world trade.

While falling short of demands by Australian farmers, it does meet the principal demands of the Cairns group of agricultural exporters headed by Australia for phased cuts in domestic price supports, the gradual opening of markets to imports, and cuts in export subsidies.

"It contains elements of a positive outcome for Australia, including on agriculture and services," Kerin said in a statement.

Officials here said the package offers a means of ending the impasse between the United States, the European Community, and the Cairns group. However, it is likely Canberra's endorsement of the plan will only go part of the way towards securing widespread acceptance of a deal after negotiations which have now been going on for five years. Talks had broken down over the size and scale of reductions in subsidies, tariffs and domestic supports. Kerin admitted the package would not achieve the maximum objectives of those involved in the talks.

A final assessment of its impact for Australia would depend on the outcome of detailed tariff and market access negotiations in the next few weeks, he added.

Kerin said the positive aspects of the package included international commitments for the reduction of agricultural subsidies and an overall one-third cut in tariffs in all sectors.

It also provides a services agreement containing rules governing access and non-discriminatory treatment in foreign markets, and an improvement to the existing system of protecting intellectual property rights.

Opposition trade spokesman Alexander Downer said Cabinet had no choice but to accept the Dunkel proposal, but should publicly state its reservations about the package. He said the European Community and the United States would not be stopped from extending export subsidies to new markets and that tariff reductions might not help Australian exporters. Countries would still be able to ban Australian imports, and there was no guarantee the package would increase access to markets, Downer said.

In talks with Australia's hard pressed farmers last week, U.S. President George Bush lent his support to the successful conclusion to the GATT talks which he said were the answer to the problems of both Australian and U.S. farmers. It was vital to the future of world trade, he said.

Treasurer Says Rate Cut To Revive Economy

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[Text] The Australian Treasurer Mr. Dawkins says the Reserve Bank's decision to cut the country's official interest rate by 1 percent is the first step in reviving the economy. But Mr. Dawkins says any recovery in employment will be delayed until the middle of this year and the economic growth is still likely to be weaker than forecast in the August budget. Tony Hastings reports from Canberra.

[Begin Hastings recording] According to Mr. Dawkins, the recovery has been delayed by the drought in the wake of an expected [improved] international economic outlook. The latest official figures show that economic growth for 1991-92 is now expected to be around 2.75 percent, 1 percentage point lower than the budget forecast. And while unemployment is not expected to drop until the middle of the year, it is still likely to (?pick up) the previously forecast figure of 10.75 percent.

On the forthcoming economic statement, Mr. Dawkins says the government is considering a range of taxation and expenditure action. But, he says they will not include a slowdown in tariff reductions or the adoption of a broad-based goods and services tax as proposed by the opposition. [end recording]